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## REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

*Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*, from Tyrwhitt's Text.—*Life of Geoffrey Chaucer*, by Sir Harris Nicolas. Fcp. 8vo. Pickering.

THIS edition of Chaucer, which forms part of Mr. Pickering's correct and elegant series of Aldine Poets, is not yet published, though nearly ready; but a few separate copies of the life of the author, by Sir Harris Nicolas, have gone abroad, and one having fallen into our hands, we consider ourselves justified in reviewing it, as the only part of the book which can call for a notice of more than a few lines. It was right that an edition of Chaucer should enter into the Aldine series; for he ranks, without any disparagement, in the first class of our national poets.

Sir Harris Nicolas's labours ought rather to be called Facts of Chaucer's life than the life of the poet. It is a life founded entirely upon the notices of Chaucer remaining on the public records of the kingdom, and the writer has done much in clearing up disputed or obscure points of his history, in collecting most interesting personal notices, and in exposing errors of former biographers. We think, however, that he has in some instances carried too far his distrust of every statement for which direct documentary evidence cannot be given, and that he gives too little importance to evidence by implication. We may cite as an instance the following paragraph, which contains all Sir Harris says on Chaucer's supposed university education:—"Some of Chaucer's biographers suppose that he was educated at Oxford, and some, again, at Cambridge; while others solve the doubt, more ingeniously than probably, by concluding that he was at both universities; but there is no proof, however likely it may be, that he belonged to either." In a note to this passage it is observed,—"Upon the doubtful authority of a line in the Court of Love (l. 913), in which he is supposed to speak of himself as 'Philogenet of Cambridge, clerk,' it has been concluded that he was educated at that university; 'but,' as is well observed in the *Edinburgh Review* (vol. ii. p. 433), 'we cannot see how the acknowledged falsehood of one part of this designation can possibly prove the truth of the rest, or why Chaucer may not have invented a fictitious character to be attached to a false name.' Leland says he was of Oxford; but his account of Chaucer is too full of mistakes to be entitled to any credit." There is another, and we think very strong, reason for supposing that Chaucer was educated at Cambridge. Every one who is acquainted with the localities, and with the character of university life in Cambridge in the fourteenth century (for it then, as at other periods, differed in various respects from that at Oxford), if he read attentively the *Reve's Tale* of the Millar of Trumpington, must be convinced that the writer of it was so minutely acquainted with the localities, &c., that he must have resided at Cambridge for some length of time; and as we have no such implied evidence with regard to Oxford, it appears to us that we are justified in believing that Chaucer was educated at the other university.

Sir Harris believes that the common opinion, which fixes Chaucer's birth in the year 1328, is correct, although it is grounded on no known documentary evidence. The first event of his life positively known is the fact of his having served in the army with which Edward III. invaded France in 1359, at which time he would be about 31 years of age. This rests upon the poet's own testimony, given at a subsequent period of his life, as witness in a dispute relating to the right to a certain cote of arms between Richard Lord Scrope and Sir Robert Grosvenor. In Chaucer's evidence on this occasion, there is a curious anecdote illustrative of the manners of the times. On being "asked if he had heard any one say how long a time the ancestors of the said Sir Richard had used the said arms?" said, No; but he had heard say that it passed the memory of man. Asked, whether he had ever heard of any interruption or challenge made by Sir Robert Grosvenor, or by his ancestors, or by any one in his name, to the said Sir Richard, or to any of his ancestors? said, No; but he said that he was once in Friday Street, in London, and as he was walking in the street he saw hanging a new sign, made of the said arms, and he asked, what inn that was that had hung out these arms of Scrope? and one answered him, and said, No, sir, they are not hung out for the arms of Scrope, nor painted there for those arms, but they are painted and put there by a knight of the county of Chester, whom men call Sir Robert Grosvenor; and that was the first time he ever heard speak of Sir Robert Grosvenor, or of his ancestors, or of any other bearing the name of Grosvenor."

Sir Harris Nicolas has fixed, with great accuracy, all the known circumstances of Chaucer's voyage to Italy; and we think that he has shewn clearly that there is no reason for believing that Chaucer had a personal acquaintance with Petrarch, although it was quite possible that he might have met that poet during his residence in the land of song. There is, however, little reason to doubt that during his diplomatic visits to France, Chaucer made the personal acquaintance of the more remarkable poets of that country; and a short French poem, addressed to him, and here published for the first time, shews that among others he was intimate with Eustache Deschamps, who expresses the utmost admiration for the diversified talents of the "great translator," as he terms Chaucer. Although his poetry has so much of the smoothness and other characteristics of that of the south, we are inclined to think that Chaucer had little knowledge of Italian literature—perhaps, as Sir Harris supposes, none even of the Italian language; and we are decidedly of opinion that he did not borrow his tales from Boccaccio, contrary to the received opinion of his biographers. We possess ourselves some strong evidence of this. Among Chaucer's principal literary friends in England were the poet Gower and Strode. At the end of *Troilus* and *Cresseide*, Chaucer thus mentions these two persons:—

"O morall Gower, this booke I direct  
To thee, and to the philosophical Strode,  
To vouchsafe, there need is, to correct,  
Of your benignities and zeales good."

Even Leland expresses himself ignorant who this Strode was, unless he were one Ralph Stroude, of Merton College, Oxford, who was said to have been a poet and a mathematician of the end of the reign of Edward III. In a manuscript in the public library of the University of Cambridge, described by Mr. Halliwell (*Manuscript Rarities of the University of Cambridge*, p. 19), who ascribes it to the fourteenth century, at the end of Chaucer's treatise on the Astrolabe, is the following colophon, curious both in its connexion with this Strode and with Chaucer's son Lewis, for whose use the treatise on the Astrolabe was composed. We have sufficient confidence in Mr. Halliwell's estimate of the date to be satisfied that the MS. is not of later date than the end of the fourteenth or the immediate commencement of the fifteenth century. The colophon is,—*"Explicit tractatus de conclusionibus astrolabii compilatus per Galfridum Chauceirs ad filium suum Lodevicum, scolarem tunc temporis Oxonie ac sub tutela illius nobilissimi philosophi magistri N. Strode."* We believe that this curious note is unknown to all Chaucer's biographers.

The notices relating to Chaucer collected by Sir Harris Nicolas from official records are highly interesting and satisfactory. It appears that subsequently to his service in the French war, the poet was continually used in diplomatic employment, which shews he possessed talents for business, and that they were appreciated. In return for this he received pensions and emoluments from the crown. His wife Philippa was one of the queen's maids of honour, and she also had her pension. Chaucer was absent on his embassy to Italy from December 1372 to November 1373. On the 23d April 1374, the king granted him for life a pitcher of wine daily,—a genial gift for a poet who had visited Italy. On the 8th of June in the same year, he was appointed comptroller of the customs and subsidy of wools, skins, and tanned hides in the port of London, and he was required to write the rolls of the office with his own hands. If these rolls be preserved, when discovered they will furnish singular autographs of one of our greatest poets. Towards the end of 1376, he was sent with Sir John Burley on some secret services, apparently in England. In February 1377, Chaucer was associated with Sir Thomas Percy on a secret mission to Flanders. Next year, after King Edward's death, he was joined with others in a negotiation for a marriage between King Richard and Mary daughter of the king of France; and in May 1378 he was sent on a mission to Lombardy. In Feb. 1379, we again find the poet in England; but during that and the following year he seems to have been frequently absent, probably on diplomatic business. On the 8th of May, 1382, he was appointed comptroller of the petty customs in the port of London during pleasure, still retaining his former office. In 1386, Chaucer was elected as one of the representatives in parliament for Kent, with which county he appears to have been closely connected: he was probably of a Kentish family. In the latter part of the reign of Richard II., Chaucer seems not only to have lost his favour at court, but it is clear that he was suffering from pecu-

niary difficulties. On the accession of Henry IV. the poet again came into royal favour, and we have the satisfaction to know that in the concluding years of his life old age was soothed by the comforts of affluence.

"The last notices of Chaucer are, that on Saturday the 21st of February, 1400, he received the pension of 20*l.* granted by the late king, and which Henry the Fourth had confirmed; and that on Saturday the 5th of June following, 5*l.* being part of the 8*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* due on the 1st of March, of the pension granted by Henry the Fourth was received for him by Henry Somere, who was then clerk of the receipt of the exchequer, afterwards under-treasurer, and in 1408 a baron, and subsequently chancellor of that court, to whom Occleve addressed two ballads, and who was probably a relation of the 'Frere John Somere' whose kalendar is mentioned in Chaucer's treatise on the astrolabe. Chaucer is said to have died on the 25th of October 1400, at the age of seventy-two, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. The precise date of his decease stands on no better authority than the inscription on the tomb erected near his grave, by Nicholas Brigham, a poet and man of literary attainments, in the year 1556, who, from veneration to Chaucer, caused his child Rachel to be buried near the spot in June 1557. It appears, that a tomb had been before placed over his remains, and the above date of his decease may have been copied from it. There can, however, be little doubt of the correctness of the period assigned to Chaucer's decease; for had he lived many weeks after the end of September 1400, the payment of his pensions would have appeared on the issue-roll of the exchequer commencing at Michaelmas in that year and ending at Easter 1401, or at all events on some subsequent roll."

We leave this little memoir with the assurance to our readers that it is by far the most satisfactory account of Chaucer that has yet been written, as far as regards actual facts. The space which we have given to a small and by no means closely printed essay of 115 pages, is a proof of the esteem in which we hold Sir Harris's researches on this interesting subject. We will only add, that we differ in some degree from his apparent opinion on the authenticity of the passage at the end of the *Canterbury Tales* in which Chaucer is made to repent of many of his writings; we are satisfied that it is a monkish forgery. We have not room at present to develop our reasons for this opinion. We are sorry also to see Mr. Pickering and others reprinting a text so detestably inaccurate and corrupt as that of Tyrwhitt. In the present state of philological science, it is desirable that we should have a good text of so classic an author as Chaucer. Tyrwhitt was ignorant even of the grammar of the language he was editing. The worst manuscript in existence is grammatically correct; but Tyrwhitt, by mixing texts and orthographies of different ages, has manufactured a language which never existed, and turned grammar into a confused hodge-podge. In almost every line we have nouns in the singular with verbs in the plural, adverbs turned into adjectives, plural nouns in the singular, and every grammatical blunder that it is possible to make.

*The Sources of Physical Science.* By Alfred Smee, F.R.S. 8vo, pp. 296. London, H. Renshaw.

MR. SMEE says:—"It has long been a favourite subject with me, to endeavour to in-

vestigate the physical structure of man, and to (endeavour to) unravel the mysterious means by which all physical forces, when acting on the human frame, are converted into nervous impressions." Such a subject is worthy of the highest intellect. Its investigation calls for the exercise of mental powers rarely combined. And to thread its mazes a clue is wanting which may never be found by human means. We say "may" rather than will, partly because it is to be inferred from the preface before us, that the labours of Mr. Smee have led him to believe that he has gained an eminence whence he has a bird's-eye view of the whole windings and intricacies of the labyrinth. The treatise, the exposition of his physiological investigations, is to be given to the world anon, and to it the present volume is the introduction. His purpose was, to have drawn up "a slight sketch of physical science;" but the introductory chapter grew under his pen, and, behold, the separate treatise entitled *The Sources of Physical Science*, in which it has been his "especial aim to examine the mutual relation not only of the various conditions of matter, but also of the various physical forces, the independent existence of which mankind have, at various times, assumed." The tone and tenor of this prodromus, this inquiry into first principles, will enable us to form some estimate of the importance of the promised work. To many, perhaps, they will appear to hold out high promise; but to us, we confess with sorrow and regret, they have proved apples of the Dead Sea, fair to the eye, but foul to the sense. We saw the external title, somewhat presumptuous we thought, and the name of the author; and we expected, from a knowledge of his previous work on electro-metallurgy, from his skilful researches, and from the value of their results in regard to the several conditions of electro-metallic depositions, a sweet savour of sound reasoning, or at all events of reasoning based on sound physical data; but the bitterness of disappointment awaited us.

As the result of Mr. Smee's inquiries, he has been "compelled to admit but three fundamentals—matter, number, attraction—from which, under various circumstances, all physical phenomena arise." And he says that "the philosopher having these three fundamentals should be able to produce all physical forces and conditions, provided he rightly understands the nature of each separate physical force or condition." This is truly a most important proviso, not only with reference to the production of physical forces, but also to the explanation of their operation; and one which if we thought fulfilled in Mr. Smee, we would at once conform to his teaching. Matter our author defines to be that which attracts—number he assumes to be derived from the finite divisibility of matter, and to have relation to a series of indivisible particles usually termed atoms or units. With these first two fundamentals we will not meddle: we have neither space nor time to enter extensively into metaphysical discussion. With abstractions, however, we must have to do, as we think that on the misapprehension, or rather confusion, of abstract physics Mr. Smee's questionable views depend. In abstract physics, he says, "we employ the abstract terms of attraction, length, breadth, weight, light, heat, sound, time, &c., in all which cases the properties of matter which they denote are considered without reference to the particular masses of matter the condition of which they point out." So far so good; and limit the discussion to abstractions, we can have no objection to their being so considered. But shortly after we meet with the

following passage: "Our intention is to confine ourselves entirely to the effects of matter which give rise to the abstract ideas, which will be used only in the conventional manner, such as universal experience has pointed out to be useful, and every-day conversation sanctions and approves. In no case will abstract definitions be attempted to be given of abstract ideas, but all abstractions will be referred to the matter which gives rise to these properties."

Now, attraction is considered, as an abstract idea, a property of matter, without any specific principle attached to matter which causes this act of attraction.—"As a principle or imponderable agent, there is neither electricity, affinity, light, heat, sound, scent, &c.; each individual term only referring to a great class of actions or effects produced by the activity of matter." And all phenomena "may be said to be" primarily dependent on inequality of attractions. Mr. Smee is not quite clear, but there appears to him to be "little doubt, or at any rate strong probability, that attraction is exerted between bodies without any material connexion between them." He has no doubt, however, that the presence of interposed particles greatly influences the result. To the force of attraction he attributes certain direction which constitutes polarity, of fundamental importance, as enabling us to oppose one attraction by another, and thence to effect decomposition, disintegration, and to give rise to the phenomena of heat, light, sound, &c., at will. He then proceeds to the following purport: The peculiar mode in which attraction is exerted in a definite direction gives the property impenetrability. Shapes or forms depend upon the number of particles attracted in each way. A number of particles attracted together, according to the energy of the force with which they are connected, occupies more or less bulk. Volume, therefore, is rather referrible to a number of particles under a given intensity of attraction than an absolute property of the primary atoms. The advantages of thus viewing the nature of volume are multifold. It does not require the creation of "repulsion" to separate particles attracted together, and it overcomes numerous difficulties which arise from the assumption of a certain size to the ultimate of particles of matter. From this view, which is forced upon us from multitudinous evidence, one atom of matter, if alone and unacted upon by any other, would fill the universe. We will not follow the author farther in his views, nor into the manner in which he thinks attraction gives quality by chemical affinity; quantity by the union of many atoms; form by the mode in which the particles are united; size by the intensity of the attractive force; and position of masses by gravitation. The grounds upon which we make a stand against Mr. Smee's opinions do not require their exposition.

Attraction and counter-attraction, according to him, give rise to all physical phenomena. It is most essential, he says, "rightly to understand voltaic phenomena, that we should most clearly understand that there is no fluid, or principle, or imponderable agent, or any other palpable absurdity, which is really produced or formed (or set in motion, we presume) by the voltaic battery." As before mentioned, the same is asserted, though not so courteously, for attraction, heat, light, &c.

In the treatment of attraction we think there is a slight mixing-up of molecular attraction with the general attraction of gravitation; but we will not dwell. To what does the assertion of the non-existence of any ethereal or other imponderable medium amount? And what is the

worth of the sciences of actions and reactions, which are called those of heat, light, sound, and scent? All these terms, according to Mr. Smee, are abstract ideas of material actions and reactions; but what are material actions and reactions other than attractions and counter-attractions? Now, Mr. Smee himself has defined attraction to be a state and not a thing, an abstract idea; and he repudiates in strong terms abstractions of abstract ideas, which, it appears from this, he considers heat and light to be: for he refers to no matter which gives rise to these properties. It is true he considers matter the primary source of heat and light; and he holds both, the latter especially, to be vibrations of matter, and of amazing rapidity. We may admit that matter is the primary source; but we cannot allow that such vibrations may be communicated without the intervention of any material particles. This difficulty is attempted to be overcome, and in connexion with heat, by the statement, "that without the intervention, as far as human means can determine, of any material particles." We cannot either agree that heat and light are abstract ideas of matter, or vibrations of matter, in the sense which Mr. Smee implies. Active chemical affinities, for instance, give rise to light; granted, even by actions and reactions; but these do not constitute light: it does not consist of the vibrations of sensible matter, but of matter insensible to human means hitherto possessed, set in motion by the movements—the attraction and counter-attraction—of ordinary matter. Hence heat and light are not abstract ideas of abstractions, but states of that which is.

We believe the existence of the ether, as it has been termed, and to it we attribute the physical phenomena attraction,—molecular, or of gravitation,—heat, light, and electricity; the three latter disturbances in the ether, by matter causing vibrations or waves of varying length and rapidity, passing by gradation the one into the other. But we must conclude. We have been led on to discussion farther than is our custom. We expected an acquisition to science from the *Sources of Physical Science*—an advancement of observation and new reasonings; the latter, such as they are, we have, but the movement we think retrograde. The expression, "such as they are," may appear, without quotation, harsh; but with extract, for style and manner of treatment of the subject, a harsher one would be conveyed; and yet we cannot resist one short extract: "What is this sun, without whose rays we could scarce exist a single day? Some have supposed it a ball of fire, others that it is a mass in a certain state of combustion. If, however, we suppose the particles of the mass of the sun to be alternately attracted and in a state of destruction of its attractions, all the effects produced by the sun would arise. How far the sun, acting successively on different parts of our planetary system, is the cause of their revolution, it is not for me at the present time to consider; and if, perchance, the influence causes the vibrations of the particles of the sun, how simple would be the construction of our solar system! When we consider that by attraction the planets are held in their situation, such an idea has some probability. Upon such a view, beautiful for its simplicity, excellent for its grandeur, the sun would cause the alternations of light with darkness, heat with cold, day with night, summer with winter; and, source of light, source of heat, source of motion, it would itself derive this power of illumination from the planets, which in turn it illuminates, revolves, and cheers."

*The Brothers, a Tale of the Fronde; and other Stories.* By the Author of "Oliver Cromwell," &c. 3 vols. H. Colburn.

WHAT melodrame is to tragedy this romance is to the true historical: not that we altogether love the latter, except on the ground of our doubting received history as much as we do the nominal departures from it. The style is peculiar: everlasting appeals to heaven, oaths, and startling parts of speech, even if the action were quiet and natural, would lead us to fancy ourselves in whirlpools of noise and peril. The Fronde has been more soberly illustrated by James, to come after whom is rather a trying test. But we will give our author praise for a dashing style of tale-telling; for being infected with Oliver Cromwell; and for that sort of narrative which deals in dashes, —, —, —, instead of commas, semicolons, and periods. From the first tale we copy the following, as one of the most thinking and natural passages we could select. The third volume is made up of some shorter pieces, which have considerable merit.

"There has always been to me a reluctance, almost a fear, to awaken any person, even a child, from placid and sweet-seeming slumber. Like taking mortal life, it is the destroying of that which, with all his glorious intellect, all his sublime endurance, all his godlike intellect, man never can restore! It is the breaking of a dam, behind whose happy barriers the wild mill-stream of human thoughts and actions is suffered for a while to linger in unvexed and motionless tranquillity! It is the calling forth of the spirit from total absence of volition, from the insensibility of woe, or, perhaps, from the abysses of imagined happiness, to care, and toil, and sorrow, to the blending of all that is most sweet and most bitter, most low and most sublime, most vicious or degraded and most high and holy,—to that blending which men call life! We know not, we never shall know, what bright hopes we may have severed, what pleasing visions we may have interrupted,—visions a thousand times fairer than reality. We know not whether we may have cut short the converse of the sainted mother, come from the land of the departed to pour strange teachings into the ears of that sleeping child, whom she no longer meets, save thus in the still midnight. We know not whether aught that we can offer can equal, nay, compare with, the imaginary luxuries of that state, which a single touch of ours, a word, a kiss, a breath more deeply drawn than common, will scatter to the winds of heaven. Always, from my childhood upward, have I felt thus; always have I loved, yet feared, to gaze upon the calm, unruffled sleeper; always have I shunned to sever those mysterious chains."

#### MR. GULLY AND CAPTAIN DENHAM'S JOURNALS.

HAVING disposed of Mr. Gully's affecting record of his captivity in Formosa, we now, agreeably to our promise, take up that of his companion in misfortune, Captain Denham, who luckily escaped with life from their formal Chinese tormentors. We thus begin our extracts:

"Before breakfast I was called for by the jailers and a Chinaman named Ayum (who had been many years ago a servant to a gentleman at Singapore, and had picked up a few words of Hindostanee), and by them taken out of the prison to a large court-house, where I saw three mandarins in state. On appearing before these officers I was made to kneel down, and saw close to me the carpenter and shroff, both kneeling, and resting with their hands on the ground. The mandarin then commenced

his examination of me by asking what ship it was, and if I was the captain. I told him I was, and that the vessel was an American; this they appeared to know was an untruth, as it certainly was; and to prove to me the contrary, they shewed me an English ensign, and had a board brought out with several flags painted on it, but I was too far off to distinguish them. Seeing the mistake I had made, I said immediately it was an English vessel, and that I was the captain or head man on board. I was then asked if it was not a ship of war? I answered no. How many guns we had, the quantity of powder, small arms, and number of men, and many similar questions, all which I answered with strict truth. They then declared it was a ship of war; and on my again denying it, I was threatened with torture, and a kind of frame brought in and placed before me: however, I still stuck out. They then began flogging both the carpenter and shroff on the face with a leather flapper, consisting of four pieces of leather joined at the handle, and about the size of a palm of the hand, the ends about an inch apart. I was taken on one side after this, and told by the man Ayum that I must answer the mandarins' questions in a manner to please them, and that they would behave well to me; but if I did not, that I should be flogged and placed in the torture-frame. I told him I would tell the truth and stick to it; that the vessel was not a vessel of war; and if they liked, they might kill me, but I would not answer them as they wished. He then went and spoke to the mandarin, who ordered me some breakfast, and I was taken out of irons, and had, such as it was, quite a hearty meal, they themselves going to their breakfast in an inner room.—"They were very particular about the queen; how many husbands she had, and who Prince Albert was; how many children they had; and many of their questions were of so indelicate a nature, that I told the carpenter I could not answer them;—in fact, no person would believe the gross (and frequently absurd) questions asked, and these by the government-officers and men of rank."

Such examinations were frequently repeated; and on this occasion, Capt. D. continues, "I was kept sitting here answering all their questions till about eight o'clock at night, when I was given some dinner, and afterwards taken in to where they were having theirs. One chap, after having picked and sucked the feet of a pig, gave them to me as a treat to finish. However, this I declined, and, to my surprise, was brought some from the dish, which was very good. They also gave me a cup of samshu, which I drank; this was the first time I ever tasted that liquor. They brought the brig's binnacle and compass, and questioned me till about 10 p.m., when I was dismissed; and heartily glad was I to get back, having been either sitting on the ground or on my knees from seven in the morning. I wanted them to let me take some food to my unfortunate fellow-captives, but they would not allow it. During the day I asked them to let us have water to wash, not having had that luxury since the day of the wreck. They told me that it was against the laws, but gave me a basin of water to wash in, and a piece of dungru, about eight inches square, for a towel; and this was only allowed, in order that they might see how I washed myself. On my way back to prison, having been securely ironed, the carpenter and shroff said we should all have our heads cut off, that the mandarins were bad men—they had been licked over the face and back for not an-



swering the questions as the mandarins wished them, and begged me to answer in a manner that would give the wretches satisfaction—in other words, tell lies. This I refused to do.”—“We were shockingly dirty, but were not allowed to wash; however, after a deal of entreaty, the jailer, after washing himself in a little warm water, feet and all, the same water being used when he had done by the under jailer or servant, we were allowed the benefit of by the latter dipping a dirty piece of cloth in it, and handing it through the bars for us to wipe our face with; but, after a day or two, he gave us the basin of water inside after they had both used it; but dirty as it was, it was a treat to us: at last we persuaded them to let us have clean cold water to wash in; they did this after some demur, wondering at it very much, as the Chinese all wash in warm water. I may here state that the old trousers I had, had become, like all the rest, so covered with vermin, that I was glad to take them off and wear the bag around my middle. The prison was full of lice, fleas, bugs, rats, cockroaches, and centipedes; our situation was most wretched: the natives think nothing of vermin; I don't think there is a native on the island who is not covered with them, men, women, and children; and often have I seen them picking them from another's head and clothes, and destroying them in a way quite novel to us, viz. by eating them. Strange to say, none of the Europeans got them in their heads, only on the body and clothes.”—“April 17th. During the day a barber came in to shave the jailers' heads; and the latter, wishing to see how we should look without long beards, whiskers, &c., asked us to be shaved: this we very readily agreed to; each had his face clean shaven for the first time since our misfortunes began, and for which each paid six cash. These cash were the profits of our labours in the drawing line, and at times we had a few given us by charitable people who came to see us; but these, I am sorry to say, were very few. It was not at all an uncommon thing for them to pretend to give us cash, and, when our hands were out between the bars, to have some filth put in them, or else have them spit in.”—“19th. This morning our jailer was taken before Quan, and received fifty blows on the back of his bare thighs for allowing us to be shaved. He bellowed out most lustily; and when brought back, they got two eggs, the white of which they beat up in some cold water, making a thick froth, which they applied to the bruised parts: after this, Mr. Roope and I were taken up to draw as yesterday; not a word was said to us, however, about getting shaved.”

These sketches of Chinese proceedings are very characteristic of an arrogant and bigoted people, separated from the rest of the world, and taught to believe themselves the *porcelaine* of the human race. Again:

July 21.—“Before breakfast a party of our lascar came to our prison to tell us Jamsu had just died. Medicine had not been sent jailer, but some was now brought by the head jailer and given me for him. (The jailer knew the man was dead, and I believe only brought it to say that medicine had been given for him.) The lascar's prison is very damp, close, and unhealthy, and they persist in saying Satan has got among them; that they will all die unless removed.”—“Jamsu had only been ill a week, and the night before he died he vomited two live worms, about eight inches long. I this morning saw some of the Nerbudda's people. Many of them appear fine healthy men, but some are sad objects, having lost the use of their limbs. The carpenter tells me he has

seen the names of 144 men, how many more there are he does not know.”—26th. “To-day see part of a marriage ceremony; the bride being carried about on a platform with artificial flowers, &c. On the platform was also a young kid, chained by the neck to a rose-tree, at her feet. The bridesmaid (as I suppose she was) was on another similar vehicle, with a quantity of imitation jewels, &c. In the evening I saw the latter again standing on the back of a flying stork, made of paper and bamboo: she was singing, or rather screaming, and accompanied her melody by playing on a kind of guitar: an old man was playing a reed similar in sound to a boy's penny trumpet. Mr. Gully's mandarin officiates here to-day. I write a letter to Gully, and get the pipebearer to take it for me. Two culprits condemned to lose their left hand, the impression of which was taken on paper, and sent to the governor for his sanction.—28th and 29th. Squally rainy weather. Feel worse instead of better. Go to Chu Sam y ats', who sends for a doctor and the carpenter: he prescribes, and I get dosed with medicines. The doctor says my illness is caused either by drinking cold water, taking rhubarb, or eating a pig's bladder. The water he knows is bad, and rhubarb they appear to think a most dangerous medicine, next to poison. Old Chu Sam y ats gets a jar, and now gives us good water. Our mandarin returns. Our place yet damp and miserable. I trust we are not to remain in this infernal island another five months: the doctor tells me that plenty of people die at this time of the year. Very pleasant reflection to die rotting in a jail, within a few miles of an English force “sufficient to take the whole island.”—“Hear this morning that all the prisoners, with the exception of us eight, have been removed to another town. Patience, patience, for truly we wait. Discontinue notes to Gully, being uncertain when I can have a chance of sending them to him. [He had been butchered more than a fortnight before.] I am short of paper. The report about the others being removed is, I find, true, but I think not out of this town. In the evening go on the top of this building, and have a look round the town, which, with its suburbs, appears very large and thickly populated. There are many junks at anchor in the bay, which is formed by an extensive reef which joins the fortified island off this town. I think there are several passages in, but we could not make out exactly. There are a small fleet of mandarin's boats and three junks just abreast of us.—29th. A beautiful morning. Directly after breakfast some soldiers came, and we were all put in irons, hands and feet, and told we were going to the governor's. They said Messrs. Roope and Partridge, with me, were to go first. We were taken out very quietly, but had no chairs, and soon saw we were not going as they had told us. We passed close to our old joss-house, and shortly after came to another larger one, with a paved yard. Here we were halted, and I was taken in first. On reaching what appeared to be the principal entrance, I saw our mandarin, Quan, with a gang of his friends and clerks, and about thirty or forty soldiers, all armed. Time was not given to me to make the usual salaam. I was seized by the hair of my head, and hove on the ground. Then Quan ordered the brutes to examine my irons. The handcuffs, I suppose, were considered sufficiently strong, but the leg-irons were hauled off, which hurt me, and scratched and bruised my legs. Another pair was then brought (very thick and heavy, about eight or ten calties): these were put on, and enclosing the legs, they fairly drove them

into my flesh. Expostulation was useless. I was spit on and abused: it prevented me putting my right foot to the ground. I was then dragged by the legs and hair to the end of the place, and carried about twenty yards to the back of where this gang of brutes was, and seated on the ground. Messrs. Roope and Partridge were then taken in and served the same way. Mr. Roope was afterwards brought out, but not placed near enough to me to speak. I was then taken back, hove down in the same way, and pulled up on my knees again by the hair of my head. I now saw the carpenter and shroff. The first question Quan asked me was why I went on the roof of our prison, and so on to the fort walls. I told him I did so to have a look round, not knowing I was doing any harm, as the soldier who acted as our guard not only made no objection, but pointed out the place where we could get the best view from. He then asked me why I had broken a plate. This I denied, not having done so; but I have since found out that some days ago one was broken by the gunner. He then spoke about the door being broken; and then asked why we burnt a piece of bamboo. We certainly had burnt this; but it was a short piece, and I should say had been kicking about in the yard for years, as it was quite rotten, and could have been put to no use whatever. He then said the next time I did so he would flog me; and that if a plate was broken, no matter if by accident, he would flog me. He then said he would shew me how. I was now seized by seven of the soldiers, and dragged a little further back, still on my knees. Two of them stood on the calves of my legs, another fixed his knee in my back, one held each shoulder, and two my head by the hair and beard. In this position my trousers were hauled up, and fifty blows given on the front of my thighs with a stick about two and a half inches thick,—a kind of Penang lawyer. A fresh man was had for each ten blows. Thanks to pride and pluck I did not sing out: this appeared to make Quan furious; he turned red in the face, stood up and talked on at a furious rate; his eyes glistened as if under strong excitement. After these fifty my right elbow was held out (the arm being bent) in a horizontal position, and the other end of the stick used: there was a knob or head to it. With this I received thirty blows—as before, a fresh man for every ten. One was abused for not striking harder, and the stick given to another wretch. No fault could be found in this respect with this fellow: still I would not cry out, but twice could not help groaning, the pain was so acute. When the thirty were finished, our mandarin's deputy ran up to me and then to the mandarin, chin chinning him not to torture me any more; and, after a little bustle, I was made to cow to Quan. Mr. Partridge was present all the time; he, as well as the carpenter, chin chinned for me, but to no purpose. I was now carried out (the mandarin said he would on the next offence give us short allowance of food), and placed as before on the ground, my legs raw and bleeding, and my elbow in a sad state. I nearly fainted; every thing swam before me; and on asking for a drink of water, a blackguard offered to—in my mouth, nor could all my entreaties procure a drop of water. I would have given a thousand dollars for a basinful, if I had had them. I only got laughed at for asking. I was not allowed to cover my legs, and was kept here about one hour and a half, the gunner and others from our prison were brought to look at me, and told I was a *pilan*. Before taking us back, the locks were taken off

our handcuffs, and they were secured by a piece of red-hot iron; a blacksmith being brought for the purpose. With a deal of entreaty I got my leg-irons opened a little, but they were still very close, more so than any others. I asked for a chair to go back in. This was allowed me if I paid for it, which I willingly did."—"October 12th. Continued fine weather. This morning the lee lotier came, bringing with him the carpenter and shroff, both clean shaved. He wanted to know the name of the English mandarin at Amoy. I did not know. The carpenter persists in saying that the other three Chinese have been killed, and will not speak about the rest of our people. All I can get from him is, that he will tell me all when we get to the ship. He is still in a great fright. They were taken away directly. In the afternoon Heen, the one-eyed man, came and told us, as much by signs as words, that out of both ships' companies Newman and ourselves were the only survivors. They were all taken out and beheaded about two or three days after our removal to the granary. This dreadful butchery has made us all most miserable. Poor Gully was the first who suffered: I believe a day before the rest. I cannot make out why Newman and we have been kept so long. Heen says that the mandarin did not kill us as we are the principal people belonging to the vessels; and that now peace has been proclaimed we shall be sent away. To us, as yet, all is a mystery. I shall not consider our lives worth a straw till we are out of their hands. Should we ever live to get clear and tell our sad tale, surely the British government will take notice of such wholesale murders. One hundred and ninety-seven men were put to death in one day, most of them British subjects, and all serving under our flag."

We will not enlarge this review by relating the particulars of the final escape of the survivors from a treacherous plot to have them murdered in a remote place on their way. On the 26th of November they were liberated, and Sir H. Pottinger informed of the villainies which had been perpetrated upon them. Let us hope they will be avenged on every head that contributed to their sufferings: they have been partially, but they ought to be entirely; and whilst the British people gather from this volume its glimpses of Chinese habits, we trust they will still be absorbed with the infernal cruelties exercised upon their defenceless countrymen, and the demand for vengeance.

## ST. PATRICK'S PURGATORY.

In closing our first notice of Mr. Wright's very interesting volume we intimated the intention of paying it at least a second visit; and though it deserves many more, we must be satisfied with so doing. Of the many curious legends we copy the following:

"It happened one evening as Thurcill was standing in the hall with St. Julian and St. Domnius, that a devil came riding furiously upon a black horse, who was received by his companions with great triumph and exultation. St. Domnius compelled the fiend to tell him whose soul it was that he had so transformed, and that he had tormented so with his riding. He answered, 'It is the soul of a peer of England, who died last night without confession or receiving of our Lord's body;' and said that, at the instigation of his wife, he had cruelly oppressed his people, to the utter ruin of many of them. Presently, the devil, turning his eyes upon Thurcill, inquired of the saints, 'Who's this?' 'Dost thou not know him?' said

one of them. 'Yea,' said he, 'I saw him in the church of Tidstude, in Essex, at the time of its consecration.' 'How went you in?' said the saint. 'In the garb of a woman: by the same token that coming near the font, as I was going into the chancel, I met the deacon, who, sprinkling me with holy water, so terrified me that with a loud scream I leaped at once into a meadow full two furlongs from the church.' And Thurcill declared that he and others had heard the noise, but they were entirely ignorant of the cause. At this period, it seems, the devils took much delight in stage-plays. St. Domnius hinted to this devil that they had a desire to see these performances. 'Very well,' said the devil, 'but mind, we must not have that countryman with us, for he will certainly go home and publish all our secrets.' 'Go on, then,' said the saint, 'and I and Julian will follow.' But they took care to introduce Thurcill slyly, hiding him between them. And they went into the devil's theatre, which was surrounded with seats for the convenience of the imps who would enjoy the spectacle. The saints stood on a low wall near the entrance, from which they could see all that passed. First, on the stage, appeared a proud man, strutting about and acting to the life all the arrogance and vanity which had distinguished him in this world: when the spectators had sufficiently enjoyed their mirth at his behaviour, suddenly his gay garments were transformed into flames about him, and, miserably scorched and tormented, he was thrust back to his place of punishment. Then entered a priest who had neglected his duties: his tongue was torn up by the roots, and he was then subjected to the same torments as the former. Next came a knight, armed and mounted on a black horse; but, in spite of all his boasting and his formidable appearance, he was quickly dismounted by one of the fiends. Then appeared a lawyer, who was obliged to act over his former deeds, pleading on one side, while he was taking bribes on the other: on a sudden the fees which he had thus taken became boiling metal, and he was compelled to swallow them. Afterwards were exhibited a long succession of offenders, including adulterers, back-biters, and thieves."

An account of a gigantic Adam, the father of the human race, lying under an immense tree, and a description of the land of Cocaigne, are both remarkable inventions. The latter was the heaven of Mahomet.

"Thog paradis be miri and brig,  
Cokaygn is of fairir sigt.  
What is ther in paradis  
Bot grasse and flure and grene ris?  
Thog ther be joi and gret dute,  
Ther nis met, bote frute.  
Ther nis halle, bure, no benche,  
Bot watir manis thursto quenche.

That land was never visited by noxious vermin, nor by thunder, hail, rain, snow, or even wind.

"Ther is a wel fair abbey  
Of white monkes and of grei.  
Ther beith bowris and halles:  
Al of pastois beith the walles,  
Of fleis, of fisse, and rich met.  
The likfullist that man mai et;  
Fluren cakes beith the schingles alle,  
Of cherche, cloister, boure, and halle:  
The pinnes beith fat podinges,  
Rich met to princez and kinges.

The 'cloister' was all built of gems and spices, and all about were birds merrily singing."

A journey of three monks of Mesopotamia to within twenty miles of the junction between earth and heaven, is a singular embodying of the popular notions about distant lands at the end of the 13th or beginning of the 14th cen-

tury; and we regret we cannot find room for it, especially as they saw two nations of *Pigmies* in their course,—the one a cubit and the others not more than a palm in height. Another strange class of legends relates to seas above our earthly skies, "which was founded on the mention made in Genesis of the separation of the waters above the firmament from those below. This belief is curiously illustrated by two legendary stories preserved by Gervase of Tilbury. One Sunday, he says, the people of a village in England were coming out of church on a thick cloudy day, when they saw the anchor of a ship hooked to one of the tomb-stones; the cable, which was tightly stretched, hanging down from the air. The people were astonished, and while they were consulting about it, suddenly they saw the rope move as though some one laboured to pull up the anchor. The anchor, however, still held fast by the stone, and a great noise was suddenly heard in the air like the shouting of sailors. Presently a sailor was seen sliding down the cable for the purpose of unfixing the anchor; and when he had just loosened it, the villagers seized hold of him, and while in their hands he quickly died, just as though he had been drowned. About an hour after, the sailors above, hearing no more of their comrade, cut the cable and sailed away. In memory of this extraordinary event (says my author), the people of the village made the hinges of the church-door out of the iron of the anchor, and 'there they are still to be seen.' At another time, a merchant of Bristol set sail with his cargo for Ireland. Some time after this, while his family were at supper, a knife suddenly fell in through the window on the table. When the husband returned he saw the knife, declared it to be his own, and said that on such a day, at such an hour, while sailing in an unknown part of the sea, he dropped the knife overboard, and the day and hour were known to be exactly the time when it fell through the window. These accidents, Gervase thinks, are a clear proof of there being a sea above hanging over us. This superstition was not confined to our islands. St. Agobard wrote against it in the ninth century. He tells us that the people of his time believed that there was a region named *Magonia*, whence ships navigated above the clouds, in which the fruits of our earth that were apparently destroyed and beaten down by tempests were carried, being sold to the sailors above by the ex-citers of the tempest. He adds, that he himself saw four persons, three men and a woman, in the hands of the populace, who were proceeding to stone them, because they believed them to have fallen overboard from one of the ships in the upper waters; but, after much reasoning, the ignorant and superstitious people 'were confounded by the truth, as the thief is confounded when he is taken.'"

Among the allegorical productions of the centuries which these pages so very curiously illustrate, there are some that will interest many readers the more from their being the prototypes of our national favourite *Pilgrim's Progress*.

"In the first half of the fourteenth century, a French poet, named William de Deguileville, in imitation of the plan of the elegant but licentious 'Romance of the Rose,' wrote three large poems under the title of the 'Pilgrimage of Human Life,' the 'Pilgrimage of the Soul,' and the 'Pilgrimage of Jesus Christ.' These poems are sometimes united under the general title of the 'Romance of the Three Pilgrimages.' They were the type of various later productions, among which the most celebrated was the 'Pil-

grim's Progress' of John Bunyan."—"One of the most remarkable writers of this latter class was Raoul de Houdaing, a French trouvère, or poet, of the beginning of the thirteenth century, who published the 'Dream of Hell,' and the 'Road to Paradise.'"

The details of this are often almost identical with Bunyan's story. *Ex. gr.*

"At Tavern-town he took up his lodging at the inn of Robbery, where he passed the night in company with Haard (Gambling), Mesconte (Detraction), and Mestrais (Back-biting). His new companions were much excited by the gratifying intelligence he brought them of the evil-doings of their disciples at Chartres and at Paris. Among the guests were Drunkenness, and her son Versez (Pour-out), with whom the pilgrim was obliged to wrestle, and by whom, after a struggle, he was thrown almost lifeless to the ground. The account of this contest bears a remarkable resemblance to some old English ballads of the force of malt and ale, printed in the collection of Evans, and analogous with the still more popular ballad of Sir John Barleycorn. Madame Drunkenness comforted him by telling him that he was not the only one whom her son had knocked down: 'Companion, don't be surprised; many a one has fought with me at the tavern who has been knocked down in the struggle; even William of Salerno, who is so celebrated for his bravery and courage, I have beaten, I assure you, and in a moment thrown with his legs into the air.'—"After leaving this place the pilgrim arrived at Despair, which was the 'montjoie,' or guide-stone of hell; and a league further came to Sudden-death, which was close to the entrance of the infernal regions. He found in the latter an hospitable custom which had long ceased to exist on the earth—the lords of the shades, whom he found preparing for table, dined with open doors, and willingly shared their hospitality with all comers. Our traveller entered without ceremony the palace of hell, and there he was received with open arms by Pilate and Belzebub, and a host of clergy, bishops, and abbots. The king of the shades kept a rich table: there, among other dishes, they had fat usurers well basted with lard, plenty of thieves and murderers appropriately cooked, neat dishes of lawyers who defend wrong for good fees, tongues of false pleaders, different dishes of religious hypocrites and monks and nuns. Then the king of the lower regions exhibited a great book, in which the pilgrim saw the wicked actions of minstrels and jongleurs. The poet afterwards took his leave, and the dream ends; but he promises a similar visit to paradise."

But we must have done, and leave St. Patrick's Purgatory (the entrance into which has been removed from one island in Loch Dearg to another) to be explored by such of our readers as desire to be better acquainted with the topography and attractions of the place.

#### PERIODICALS.

*Hood's Magazine*, No. I., has commenced its monthly campaign in great force. A charming engraving, by J. Cousen, of "The Haunted House," beautifully introduces a poem of the same name—the frontispiece being worthy of Creswick and the poem, and the poem worthy of Hood and the fine old mansion and landscape.

\* "I believe that Mr. Nathaniel Hill, of the Royal Society of Literature, has been long occupied in researches on the history of the works of this class which preceded the publication of the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' and I have no doubt he will produce an interesting and valuable book."

Perhaps the editor never wrote a piece of description more replete with genius than this opening production; and the vague mysteriousness in which he has shrouded his subject gives the whole a very striking effect. We feel the shaking of

"Those tatter'd flags, that with the open'd door  
Seem'd the old wave of battle to remember;"  
and we hardly breathe as we approach the central terror, where

"The spider shunn'd the interdicted room;  
The moth, the beetle, and the fly, were banish'd;  
And where the sunbeam fell athwart the gloom,  
The very midge had vanish'd."

The other contents are various, and of the best order of miscellaneous magazine literature. Reminiscences of Bayonne, a lively sketch; a Tale of Temper, quite Hoodish; Great Tom of Oxford, very like the cleverest of Peter Priggins; an Irish Rebellion, a laughable epistle from a hodman's English wife; Mrs. Burrage, a Temperance Romance, in the editor's own style; a feelingly introduced Review of C. Dickens's *Christmas Carol*; and sundry articles grave and gay, making the entire number 24, fill up the measure of this promising, entertaining, and welcome addition to our mensal publications.

*The Christian's Monthly Magazine and Universal Review*, No. I. (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.), has also taken the field with the new year. In doctrines and principles it adheres stoutly to the old church of England, and wages interminable war with the Tractarians. The embellishments are neat and suitable; and the portion assigned to miscellaneous literature displays talent and learning.

*The London Polytechnic Magazine, &c.*, No. I., edited by T. Stone, M.D. (London, J. Mortimer),—a new scientific journal, starts with a good specimen of information and ability. It takes a right course in treating of subjects of the day, not to suppose readers already well informed about them; but it goes historically and analytically to work; so that if you never heard of the matter before, you can form a tolerable idea of it here; and if you are partially versed in it, you can improve your knowledge. A well-written paper on the glacier theories prefers that of "infiltration;" another on ventilation in mines is sensible and to the point; and the various hypotheses upon daggerreotyping are luminously expounded. One short paper distresses us, the account of a silk manufactory at Roveredo, which makes us blush for our own slavish, unhealthy, improvident, and workhouse-tending establishments, when compared with the right-minded and golden-ruled provisions of M. Stofella. Perhaps it would be impossible to follow out all his arrangements among an innumerable multitude of hands and almost unbounded mercantile speculation; but would we could take a leaf or two out of his just and philanthropic book! It explains an admirable system.

*The Penny Magazine. New Series.* (C. Knight and Co.)—This concludes the twelfth volume of this cheap diffusion of multifarious information. The multitude of subjects described, and the flush of woodcuts, makes this desultory sort of reading, in our judgment, more pleasant to have in volumes, and dip into for a half hour's recreation, than to be consulted as for regular instruction. The variety rather confuses the memory; but in the way we have mentioned we are both amused and taught.

*The Manufacturer's Magazine of Popular Applied Science.* No. I.

SOMEWHAT too controversial and one-sided; scientific information is better to be communi-

cated *sans phrase*. The whole of this number is about combustion and smoke, and it fights about the infringement of patents.

*Electrical Magazine.* Conducted by Mr. C. V. Walker. Vol. I. No. 3. (London, Simpkin and Marshall.)—This quarterly journal is carefully and judiciously conducted. The present number does not contain much original matter other than reviews, but the selections are culled both from foreign and home sources, and are well grouped.

*The Gardener, Part I.* (R. Groombridge) has the date of September upon it, and seems a useful gardening guide, and properly devoted to uphold the "gardeners' interests."

*Gardener's Edition of the Botanic Garden*, by B. Maund.—No. 11., also R. Groombridge; makes us wish we had seen more of it, and regularly.

*Page's Library of Fiction.*—Part I, has three romantic and rather tragic tales; enough to break nursery-maids' hearts.

*Chambers's Edinburgh Journal. New Series.* No. 1.—Our old, nationally valuable, and esteemed contemporaries have altered the form of their widely popular Journal into a neat and convenient octavo in double columns, and commenced a new series, which, we doubt not, will deserve to be, and be, as generally sought after as its larger-leaved precursor. We are gratified to see in this No. a plain and conclusive narrative by Mr. W. Chambers, of his attendance in London to test the method of Dr. Turnbull for the cure of diseases of the eye by the application of the vapour of hydrocyanic acid and other media. The statements in the *Literary Gazette*, copied into the *Edinburgh Journal*, had been, as we were, questioned and denied; but the writer took the pains, as we did, to witness facts, and has not only given a clear account of them, but produced the testimony of Mr. Alexander Miller—an eminent surgeon of Edinburgh, who has repeated the experiments of Dr. Turnbull—to the successful application of these medicaments to cataract, opacity of the cornea, ophthalmia, staphylocoma, amaurosis, and other afflicting causes of deformity, blindness, and suffering. We must be well satisfied to find our original statements on this important subject so fully corroborated; and the more so, as we have been, in consequence of these statements, often called upon, both at home and from abroad, to add our personal assurance of the efficacy of the system to the public evidence we had ventured to print. And in some of these cases voyages and journeys of many hundred miles and much expense depended upon our answers, which were uniformly this—that the *Literary Gazette* never uttered a syllable, as a public organ, which was inconsistent with the private convictions of its editor and his trusted associates. The remaining articles in *Chambers's Journal* are worthy of its established fame.

*Waverley Novels.*—Ivanhoe, of the Abbotsford edition, is completed, and the work proceeds valiantly.

*The Miller of Deanhaugh.* (Edinburgh, Menzies.)—Part X. goes forward amusingly, and is, we fancy, the only Scotch serial "progressing."

*British Moths.* No. XXVI. W. Smith. MR. HUMPHREY's plates and Mr. Westwood's descriptions continue to give a permanency to these frail creatures. Never did amber preserve so well.

*The Ladies' Flower-Garden of Ornamental Perennials.* By Mrs. Loudon. Nos. 23 and 24. London, W. Smith.

POOR Mrs. Loudon is herself in mourning and weeds; but here her Perennials bloom as gaily



and flower as beautifully as ever. The graceful little Lobelia, and other equally graceful plants of later introduction; the rich-looking Asclepias, varieties of Gentiana, and others of strange names—Hippion, Sabbatia calycosa, &c. &c., adorn these numbers, and do credit to the continued efforts of the author.

*The Ladies' Cabinet.* No. I. *New Series.* Illustrated with Ten Engravings. (London, G. Henderson.)—Prodigious! Ten engravings for sixpence; and the foremost of them, "The first Ear-rings," by Wilkie, worth all the money. Of those representing fashions we are no judge, but that to which we have alluded is really a pretty embellishment;—the Mother and Child, after Lawrence, is not so well done, but still remarkable in so cheap a monthly. The Doctor's Story, too, with which the No. commences, is of a superior order to the mediocre run of similar productions; and we think the readers will be so interested with it as to feel that its breaking off in the middle,

Like the story of the Bear and Fiddle,

is a pregnant example of the unsatisfactory practice of so dividing tales, which has become a common and displeasing system in magazine scribbling.

*The Medical Times* has made a strenuous effort with the new year, greatly enlarged its bounds, and advertised considerable accessions to its staff and strength, and the *consultation* of extended sources of information. The last No. of the year contains an almanac, and vast mass of useful information, especially for the medical profession.

*The Herald of Peace*, No. 26, has appeared among our season-able compliments; but we have not enough before us, nor of general information, to speak of the *status* or views of the Society.

Jessie Phillips, we presume, goes forward, but the irregularity of our Nos. precludes observation. As a sort of lasting rule, we would inform the readers of the *Literary Gazette* (and we do so in justice to our assiduity and toil in collecting and noticing every performance of a literary character), that if they do not see any particular work duly mentioned in our pages, they may take it as *prima facie* evidence that it has been kept back from us owing to a sense of its unworthiness, entertained by those from whom it emanates.

*Chronicles of the Bastille.* Part I. (T. C. Newby.)—The title comprehends the object of the work, which, as far as No. 1 is concerned, appears to be fairly executed. For a good many years we have frequently had to notice productions from the graver of Robert Cruikshank with reluctance, as feeble and coarse imitations of George. It therefore affords us additional pleasure to observe that the two designs which embellish this publication are executed in a style which would be no discredit to the greater name, and such as could not be seen even in a high-priced work ten years ago.

*Horse-Shoe Nails.* Nos. 1 to 7. By Minor Hugo. (London, G. Earle.)—There is a good deal of stuff (by stuff we mean matter) in this serial; and the writer's ideas on many subjects have an originality about them which merits attention. Without agreeing with all his opinions, and differing essentially from some of them, we shall consider his work to be more thoughtful than many of higher pretensions.

New Nos. of *Pickering's Mediæval Alphabets, Numerals, &c.* must have a separate review hereafter. It is a very curious work.

*Collectanea Antiqua.* Nos. I. II. and III. By C. Roach Smith, F.S.A. London, J. B. Nichols and Son.

At this time, when we are rather enumerating than reviewing novelties, we only notice this very interesting production as one likely to be highly prized, not only by antiquarian but general readers. It consists of etchings of ancient remains, with explanations; and we have seen nothing better calculated to illustrate many points in the "habits, customs, and history of past ages." To some of these points we shall return.

*A Practical Work on the Management of Small Farms.* Nos. I. and II. By Feargus O'Connor. London, J. Cleave.

MANY people call Feargus a wrong-headed, but he is also rather a strong-headed fellow. His theory of small farms for the benefit of the million may be objectionable on many points, and so may his farming practice; but the principle is good,—it is allied to the just and benevolent plans which allot pieces of ground to the labouring population, and encourage (where it is expedient) spade-husbandry. We care not who may systematise against these expedients for ameliorating the condition of the lower orders; but no human being who has witnessed the comfort they diffuse, where fairly tried and judiciously managed, can doubt of their being calculated to diffuse extensively blessings of the most gratifying description. In an introduction Mr. O'Connor fairly beleaguers the anti-corn-law folks and manufacturing monopolists. Mr. Ferrand is silky softness compared to the charist leader.

*The Miser's Son.* Nos. I. to VI. London, R. Thompson.

In our notice of serials (No. 1403) we omitted to mention this modest little venture of evidently a young author. His work gives proofs of very considerable talent: it contains passion and poetry for the lovers of the sentimental, hairbreadth-scapes and stirring interest for the admirers of romance. The book is beyond the average of ordinary novels; and when completed, we shall perhaps be tempted to review it more at large. Meanwhile we can cordially recommend the first six numbers of the *Miser's Son* to the attention of those innumerable readers who delight in the marvellous and the pathetic.

London. Parts X. to XVIII. inclusive. London, C. Knight.

It is long since we noticed this cheap and pleasant publication. The Tower, one of the most interesting objects in London, is well described, with its many visitors and victims; even till the late fire has got its representation among the embellishments. The old Royal Exchange, Christ's Hospital, Smithfield, South-sea House, &c., offer subjects hardly less fertile in antiquarian recollections and "modern instances." London life in last century is introduced by a bad chapter-head. The pictures of the hanging school of literature do not so well become a work like this; but the paper itself is full of interest. Coming westward, we have St. James's Palace; and then revert to the Custom-house, Spitalfields, the Docks, &c. Next the bridges, Clerkenwell (Strawberry-hill brought in), Barber-surgeons' Hall and the College of Surgeons, the Royal Academy (with portraits of some of its distinguished members); and from academicians we are taken back to astrologers. St. Giles', past and present, figures next; the Post-Office and the Temple Church follow; and there is an essay on Scotsmen in London, not quite in keeping with the general tone, but amusing. The Corn-Exchange, so full of fraud; Ely

Place, and the Goldsmiths' Hall, complete the parts to page 400 of the 3d vol.; and the whole is most creditable to the original design. We should think the work an irresistible desideratum for every citizen of London who can read?

*Fox's Book of Martyrs.* Parts I. to XIX. Edited by the Rev. John Cumming, M.A.

VOLUME first of this memorable reprint ends in Part XIII., at the goodly extent of 1157 pages; and the second commences with the reign of Henry the Eighth; and so the work has proceeded to the reign of Mary, and the date of 1555. Assuredly human nature is inherently cruel. Hence, besides the lessons which are declared to be taught by works describing cruel actions, the popularity which attends them for their very horrid details. The *Book of Martyrs* and the *Newgate Calendar* derive their influence from the same morbid source; and all publications which partake in any degree of their character may attribute their success more or less to the same inhuman feeling. Torturings and burnings, and hangings, drawings, and quarterings, have attractions for the many, just as crowds run to witness executions. Nor are the barbarous prints the least favoured in these performances. But Fox's book is also a remarkable historical record, and shews to what terrible crimes the profession of religion may be turned.

*Maxwell's History of the Rebellion in Ireland in the Year 1798.* Part I. Illustrated by G. Cruikshank. (A. H. Bailey and Co.)—The details of this lamentable and horrid convulsion are revived in the hope of producing a salutary effect at this inauspicious time. Two designs by George Cruikshank, of the surprise of the Barrack of Prosperous and the arrest of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, are fit representations of savage and murderous atrocity and individual calamity which darkened this painful crisis of British history.

*Ireland, &c.* By Montgomery Martin. London, Orr and Co.

To Part VI. Mr. Martin has now carried his remarkable historical and statistical view of Ireland before and after the Union (see *Lit. Gaz.*, No. 1398); and assuredly every new part brings forward very important matter for the consideration of both islands, and the statesmen and public of both.

*The History of the British Empire in India.* By Edward Thornton, Esq., &c. Vol. V. Part VI. London, H. W. Allen and Co.

From time to time we have received and read the valuable parts of this sterling work as they issued from the press; and have taken occasion to intimate to the public the comprehensive nature of its plan, and the able manner of its execution. The present publication is an index to the whole, of upwards of 250 pages, alphabetically and well arranged; and a brief glossary of Indian terms. From the former an estimate may be formed of the vast care and labour bestowed by the author upon this *magnus opus*; which is, indeed, a very complete history of the most important colony that ever belonged to the mightiest of empires. What is yet to come we know not; but the events of the past, as here impartially related, offer the best study for the right appreciation of the present and understanding of the future. India cannot stand still; and, like a moving world, the events of every change and revolution lead us year after year to some extraordinary posture of affairs and novelty of combination. To all who would be

prepared for these marvels (and even within the last three days the news is portentous) we cordially recommend Mr. Thornton's History.

## ARTS AND SCIENCES.

### TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM.

M. LAMONT, director of the observatory at Munich, in a letter to the Academy of Sciences at Brussels, describes results which appear to him very remarkable. He says, "Having received the third volume of M. Kriegl's observations, I have compared the magnetic disturbances observed simultaneously at Prague and at Munich. Generally there is a great resemblance between the movements of the needle at these two places; but there is also considerable discordance: whence it must be concluded that the cause of these extraordinary magnetic movements is modified variously from one place to another. However, the first comparison has sufficed to shew that the irregularities have reference rather to the numerous small movements which exist in each perturbation, than to the force of the perturbation itself, which is represented by the amplitude of the oscillation of the needle; that is to say, by the difference between the maximum and the minimum. Of all the perturbations, the maxima and minima of which have been observed at Prague and Munich between Aug. 1840 and July 1841, with one single exception, the movements of the needle at Prague are greater than those at Munich, and they are in an almost constant relation; this relation of Munich to Prague varies between 1:1.02 and 1:1.24, and its mean value is 1:1.11. At first I thought that the difference between the amplitude of the oscillations might be due to the difference of horizontal intensity, and to the same cause from which the diurnal movement is greater at Prague than at Munich; but it cannot arise from this, as the relation of the horizontal intensity is 1:0.99, that of the diurnal movement is 1:1.03, and as the two effects combined would only give 1:1.04. There exists, then, a peculiar cause, connected either with local circumstances, or with the force of the perturbation itself, whereby the extraordinary oscillations are greater at Prague than at Munich. This result appeared to me so remarkable, that I began immediately to collect and to collate all the perturbations and all the sudden movements recorded for some years at different epochs; and I can now enounce, as a general proposition, that in every magnetic disturbance there is between the amplitudes of oscillations observed in different parts of Europe a constant relation."

By a table of the mean values of the relations between different places (sixteen in number), it was seen that, with one exception, the progression was so remarkable, and the amplitude of the magnetic oscillations increased so regularly with the latitude of the places, that there would have been no difficulty in expressing the one of these quantities by a simple function of the other. But, says M. Lamont, "I believe that to obtain certain results the data we now possess are not sufficient; and I content myself with having pointed out a remarkable relation for theory, and to which it seems desirable to draw the attention of philosophers engaged in magnetic observations."

### CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

Dec. 18.—Read: 1st, "Observations on catechu acid," by Mr. J. T. Cooper, describing the tanning process to which his attention had been directed, and in which catechu is employed as the tanning agent. Upon completion

of this process, a whitish matter exudes on the surface of the leather, the uniform appearance of which over the whole of the hide is considered a test of its perfection. On examination the author found that this exuded substance consisted principally of catechuic acid. Analyses of catechu and cutch were appended to the paper. 2d, A paper "On a curious change in the molecular structure of silver," by Mr. R. Warrington. The subject of this communication was part of a funereal vase dug up by some labourers from about seven feet below the surface of the ground between Bow and Stratford, while excavating brick earth. It was put into the hands of Mr. Warrington by Mr. Porrett, as bearing on the question of alteration in molecular structure after solidification. It was extremely rotten and brittle, and presented under the microscope a highly crystalline structure, with a film of a totally different aspect on its exterior surface. After being heated to redness for a short time, it became altogether changed in its character; it had lost its extreme brittleness, it presented a tough, minute, granular structure; its specific gravity had also increased. On analysis it was found to contain chloride of silver, which separated in small flakes after the action of dilute nitric acid, and which evidently constituted the film observed under the microscope. The formation of the chloride must have arisen from the action of soluble sulphates and chlorides present in the soil whence it was dug, assisted probably by peroxide of iron existent in the brick-clay, and with which per salt the surface of the metal was stained.

### BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 29.—Seventh anniversary meeting. Mr. J. Reynolds, treasurer, in the chair. From the report of the council it appeared that thirteen new members had been elected since the last anniversary, and that the society now consisted of 159 members. The donations of foreign plants had far exceeded that of any former year. Many valuable British specimens had also been received; and the parcels of plants sent to the members, in return for their contributions, had given general satisfaction. The numerous cryptogamic specimens presented, both British and foreign, comprised many new species. Donations of various valuable works had also been made to the library. The report was unanimously adopted. A ballot then took place for the council for the ensuing year, when Mr. J. E. Gray was re-elected president, and the chairman treasurer. The chairman congratulated the members upon the progress the society had made during the past year.

Dec. 13.—The president nominated Mr. H. C. Watson and Mr. J. Miers vice-presidents.

Action of Light on Plants.—Dr. Gardner's experiments on the action of yellow light in producing green colour, and indigo light the movements of plants, detailed in the *Philosophical Magazine*, tend to prove the following:—1st, that chlorophyll is produced by the more luminous rays, the maximum being in the yellow; 2d, this formation is due to pure LIGHT, an imponderable distinct from all others; 3d, that the ray towards which plants bend occupies the indigo space of Fraunhofer; 4th, this movement is due to pure LIGHT, as distinguished from heat and tithoniticy; 5th, that pure LIGHT is capable of producing changes which result in the development of palpable motion; 6th, the bleaching of chlorophyll is most active in those parts of the spectrum which possess little influence in its production, and are complementary to the yellow rays; 7th, this action is also due to pure LIGHT. And to disprove the theory of De Candolle, and the conclusions of Mr. Hunt and others, Dr. Gardner decries the use of solutions and coloured glasses as objectionable, and is convinced that no perfect results can be obtained except with the spectrum.

Amongst other applications of these facts to vegetable physiology, the following is a curious speculation. The author says: "It is impossible to conclude without calling the attention of physiologists to the remarkable fact proved in the second part of this paper, that indigo light possesses a soliciting power capable of governing the direction of the stems, peduncles, &c., of plants; an action accomplished by light incomparably feeble in comparison with the yellow rays. The blue of the atmosphere is scarcely less intense when compared with the sun's beams. Does not the colour of the sky, therefore, regulate the upright growth of stems to a certain extent? Is it not in virtue of the soliciting force therein that plants continue to grow erect whenever other disturbing forces are in equilibrium?"

### PARIS LETTER.

Paris, Dec. 30, 1843.

Academy of Sciences: sittings of December 18 and 26.—M. Morin was elected to the vacancy in the mechanical section. M. Regnault read a report favourable to a new heliostat presented by M. Silbermann sen. This new instrument is very ingeniously constructed; it admits of easy "orientation;" and its comparatively low price (350 to 400 francs) will permit its being introduced generally for physical research. M. Arago, Biot, Babinet, and Regnault, have submitted this heliostat to various trials; and they acknowledge that it works very satisfactorily, and sufficiently precise for most optical experiments.

A report was also read on a plan for carriages, invented by M. Dufour. The invention does not involve any new principle. The advantage proposed consists chiefly in lowering the centre of gravity, and increasing the stability of the carriage.

M. Biot submitted his work "On the discovery of the lunar inequality called the variation." The author has studied generally the discoveries which have been successively made in the lunar theory by Greek, Arabian, and European observers previous to Newton. The result to M. Biot is, that the assertion of M. Mumck, made to the Academy some months ago, is perfectly correct, which was, that the astronomical fact described by Aboul Wefa, under the name of the third lunar inequality, is not the variation, but the oscillatory movement of the lunar apogee, as given by Ptolemy in chap. v. of the fifth book of the *Almageste*, and with the identical numbers and errors. Aboul Wefa has been hitherto considered the discoverer of the variation. M. Biot's work will be published in a series of articles in the *Journal des Savants*.

Sitting of Dec. 26.—M. Baudrimont communicated the results of his and M. M. St. Ange's researches on the physical phenomena of incubation. Their inquiries were directed principally to foetal life, were made chiefly on the eggs of common fowl, and seemed to them to establish that during incubation eggs absorb oxygen, and part with water and carbonic acid—in short, that oxygen is essential to the organic evolution of the embryo. The loss of water is also indispensable; and the combustion of carbon and hydrogen occur. The quantity of carbon burned increased with the pro-



gress of incubation, but that of the water appears to be constant during the whole period. From the combustion of the carbon and hydrogen, eggs must have a certain temperature independently of the heat communicated by the mother. M. Baudrimont has constructed an apparatus to determine whether the azote plays any chemical part, becoming free or being absorbed, which if it did, would interfere with the foregoing conclusions.

M. Boullay read a memoir on the production of a new amide from the action of ammonia on oil and fat. From the facts detailed, the conclusions were, that from the action of ammonia on oils and fatty bodies, there result a very small portion of margarates and oleates, a peculiar acid in the state of an ammoniacal super-salt, glycerine, and a colouring matter, chiefly a body entirely neutral, having all the characters of an amide, and presenting the composition of the margaramide. Spanish-nut oil is transformed, under the influence of ammonia, almost entirely into a neutral body analogous to that which the other oils furnish, but with different characters.

M. A. Cahours states that the volatile oil of the *Gaultheria procumbens*, known in commerce and used in perfumery under the name of "oil of wintergreen," is formed of two distinct principles; the one offering no peculiarity worthy of interest; the other, and almost the totality of the natural oil, possessing a durable odour sweet and strong. The latter is the heaviest of the known oxygenated oils. Its density is equal to 1.18, at a temperature of 10°. This oil, produced by vegetation, is identical in composition with the salicylate of methylene. According to M. Cahours, the salicylate of methylene should be considered as salicylic acid modified by the substitution of an equivalent of methylene for one of hydrogen. This substance, or the heavy oil of *Gaultheria procumbens*, is isomeric with anisic acid; and M. Cahours insists upon the fact, that it affords the first example hitherto observed of two isomeric bodies giving, in a determined case, identical products.

M. Morren wrote that he had recently made several experiments to ascertain the variation in the quantity of oxygen and carbonic acid contained in the air dissolved in sea-water at different hours of the day. They were continued from the end of September to the 10th of December last. The general results are:—1. That sea-water, under the influence of direct and diffused solar light, and when the sea is agitated, holds oxygen and carbonic acid in solution in variable quantities. 2. After a succession of fine days the quantity of oxygen dissolved increases, attaining a maximum on the brightest days. 3. The oxygen and carbonic acid appear in an inverse ratio the one to the other. 4. The "oxygenation" is a minimum at sunrise, and a maximum between mid-day and 3 o'clock, according to the mean of the experiments for the above-named period.

Under the title of *Revue Anglo-Française*, M. Fontenelle de Vaudoré, a distinguished antiquary of Normandy, with the assistance of a number of able collaborateurs, has continued to publish during some years an interesting historical magazine, dedicated chiefly to the history of the international transactions of France and England, and to the antiquities of the ancient Anglo-Gallic provinces. The original series having reached its fifth annual volume, M. Fontenelle de Vaudoré has made some improvements and modifications in his plan, and has begun a new series, which promises much interest both to French and to English readers.

A large undertaking has just been commenced in Paris on the history of the cities and towns of France, to be entitled *Histoire des Villes de France, Chroniques, Traditions, Légendes, Institutions, Coutumes, Mœurs, et Statistiques locales*. The editor-in-chief is M. Aristide Guilbert. The history of each place is to be written by some man calculated for the task by his literary celebrity and by his local connexions. The list of collaborateurs in this great national undertaking includes nearly all the distinguished names in modern French serious literature: we may only mention such as De Barante, Barthélemy St. Hilaire, De Caumont, D'Avezac, Fau-riol, Paul Lacroix (the French Walter Scott), De Lamartine, Letronne, Martini Delpit, Mig-net, Charles Nodier, Amédée Thierry, the Baron Walckenaer, &c.

*French Antiquarian Intelligence.*—There still exists at Orange, in the south of France, a large table to which have been nailed, during several centuries, all the false weights suppressed or changed by the public authorities in the market of that town. Notwithstanding their intrinsic want of value, they are of interest to the antiquarian from their form; and some local observers have, we believe, made accurate drawings and measurements of the most curious among them.—A course of lectures on monumental archæology has been opened in the Royal Military School of St. Cyr. This is of more importance than may appear at first sight; for from this school proceed the greatest number of the future military authorities of France; and they will have it in their power to prevent many acts of Vandalism from being committed against the ancient civil and ecclesiastical edifices which, in the disastrous times of the Revolution, were perverted, and still remain abandoned, to military purposes. Though the military authorities, and especially the engineers, have done irreparable damage, in the days of recent darkness, to many monuments within their reach, it must be acknowledged, to the praise of the French officers as a body, at the present moment, and especially of the War Office (perhaps the most liberal and enlightened of the ministerial departments in France), that a most praiseworthy anxiety is now shewn to pay due respect to the mediæval remains over which they have any control. The recent order for the preservation of the walls of Carcassonne is a gratifying instance of this; and it would be highly desirable if the same spirit could lead to the restoration of the royal chateau of St. Germain en Laye (now a military prison), and of the papal chateau of Avignon (now a barrack), to some monumental purpose. They might easily be converted into museums.—Excavations are constantly going on, under the authority of government, upon the site of the ancient Roman colossus of Aix in Provence. Numerous mosaics have been recently found, and a charming statuette in white marble.—M. Raynal of Bourges has lately informed the Comité Historique of his having discovered, in a document of the chapter of that city, the title *magister simulacrorum*, applied to one of several persons employed by the canons of the cathedral. To another person the title *magister de capsas* is also applied. These titles are believed by M. Didron to have been hitherto unknown. Information is desired by the Comité on this point. The latter title is considered equivalent to *maître de chasse*, or "master goldsmith."—M. Thomassy is publishing a useful book entitled *Histoire de l'Art dans le Midi de la France*.

## LITERARY AND LEARNED.

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

WE have now to conclude our report of the last of the four papers read at the last meeting of the year that has closed. As previously stated, it was read by the secretary Mr. Cattermole, contributed by Mr. Thomas Wright, the author of the *Biographia literaria*, and many other distinguished works, and related to some curious legends about Gerbert, a celebrated mathematician, and (in his way) a Dr. Faustus to the unlearned. But apart from the superstitions here put forth, we ought, as a matter of grave science, to observe that Mr. Wright declares himself strongly in favour of the opinion of M. Chasles, of Chartres, that the abacus of Gerbert was derived from the old Roman system of arithmetic, and that little or nothing of science in the west was gathered from the Arabs before the twelfth century.

Few names in mediæval literature or science excite so much interest as that of the mathematician Gerbert. Standing almost single amid his contemporaries, and far in advance of his age in those branches of learning which were least encouraged by the church, yet rising with extraordinary rapidity from a low position in society to the highest dignity in the Christian world, he became, in the course of a few years, the subject of innumerable wild legends, amid which the real events of his life were in a great measure forgotten. One of these legends, preserved by William of Malmesbury, has received an especial degree of importance from the circumstance of its having given rise to a generally received, but erroneous, view of the history of science in the tenth and eleventh centuries. The historian tells us, that Gerbert obtained his great learning in Spain. It is pretended that he went to Seville, and placed himself under the tuition of a Saracen who was very deeply acquainted with all the unlawful sciences, and who taught for profit. Of this man Gerbert learnt not only all the mathematical and physical sciences, but also necromancy, astrology, and magic. There was, however, one book which the Saracen refused to communicate to the student, and the difficulties thrown in his way made him more eager to obtain it. Perceiving that entreaties and offers of money were vain, Gerbert entered into an intrigue with the Saracen's daughter; and having made the magician drunk with wine, she introduced her companion into his bed-chamber, and he took the book from beneath his pillow during his sleep. Having obtained possession of this eagerly sought treasure, Gerbert immediately fled; but the Saracen, awaking and sobered by his sleep, discovered the artifice of which he had been the dupe, and pursued the offender very closely, his profound acquaintance with the stars enabling him easily to trace his route. Gerbert also consulted the stars, and discovered his danger, and the way to avoid it. He took shelter under a wooden bridge, suspending himself in such a manner that he neither touched earth nor water; and the magician, unable, under these circumstances, to discover the place of his concealment, returned home in despair. Gerbert now continued his flight till he arrived at the sea-shore. There, by his incantations, he conjured up the evil one, and entered into a compact by which he gave up his soul on condition that the devil should carry him safely over the sea, and ensure him success in all his undertakings during the remainder of his life. This, it was pretended, was the secret of his wonderful fortunes, which ended in his elevation to the papacy. At Rome, by means of his magical

skill, he discovered secret treasures under the ruins of the ancient city. At length he made a brazen head under a certain conjunction of the planetary system, which had the quality of giving true answers to all questions that he might put to it. He was informed by this oracle that he would not die till he was in Jerusalem, and he was thus led to expect a long life. One day, when performing mass, Gerbert, now pope, was struck with a sudden illness, and in answer to his questions was informed that the church in which he was celebrating was named Jerusalem. Gerbert perceived at once the interpretation of his oracle, felt the approach of death, and, in a violent fit of despair, ordered his body to be torn limb from limb, and the fragments to be thrown out of doors. Such is the coarse legend preserved by William of Malmesbury, and repeated by succeeding historians, such as Vincent of Beauvais and Fordun.

This legend chiefly, if not solely, gave rise to the long-received opinion that Gerbert had studied among the Saracens in Spain, and that the *abacus*, which was nothing more than our present system of decimal arithmetic, was borrowed from the Arabs.

The best account of Gerbert is given in the recently discovered history of his own times by his friend and disciple Richerus. Richerus has given a detailed and most interesting description of his master Gerbert's course of lectures, of the subjects on which he treated, and of his mode of teaching; which, as M. Chasles observes, goes far towards proving that Gerbert had had no connexion with the Arabs. One of Gerbert's most remarkable improvements in teaching appears to have been the invention of different machines to represent the motions of the heavenly bodies, the operations of geometry, &c., so as to make them more easily understood by learners. Richerus describes very minutely several of these machines, particularly his artificial spheres and his *abacus*. It appears that among the ancient mathematicians a mode of arithmetical computation had been in use precisely similar to our modern system, but that the value which is now represented by simple position was then represented by columns drawn on an *abacus* of sand, or some other substance capable of receiving impressions. Nine arbitrary figures were used to indicate the nine simple numerals, and a blank in the column was left in place of our modern cipher. The calculators gave in their writings the results of these operations in the ordinary numerals of the time, without indicating the operations by which they attained them; and we are now only made acquainted with them by one or two slight allusions which have been collected and explained by M. Chasles. The novelty which Gerbert introduced was the machine he invented to make the system more simple for the comprehension of his scholars—a machine precisely similar to one in use among the Chinese, and which has been adopted in this country, in our time, to teach arithmetic to children. Richerus tells us that Gerbert employed a maker of shields to fabricate an artificial *abacus* or table, which was divided into twenty-seven longitudinal columns, in which he arranged the nine characters or ciphers by which all numbers were represented. He also caused to be made a thousand characters of horn, marked with the figures of these ciphers, which, by being moved in the twenty-seven columns of the *abacus*, were made to represent all the operations of multiplication and division. This was the celebrated *abacus* of Gerbert.

Mr. Wright has discovered (in a work by

Walter Mapes, which he is editing for the Camden Society) another legend of Gerbert, which seems to support the notion that Gerbert did not study among the Arabs. According to this legend, he was a native of Burgundy, distinguished by nobility of family and of manners. He came to Rheims, with the emulation of excelling all the scholars of that school, whether natives or foreigners. It happened at that time that the provost of Rheims had a daughter whose beauty was the admiration of the whole city, and who was surrounded by suitors. Gerbert's curiosity was excited by the reports of the damsel's beauty; he saw her, and became suddenly and deeply enamoured. Impelled by this irresistible passion, Gerbert neglected his studies and his household affairs, was reduced to poverty, became a prey to usurers, and was loaded with debts. To complete his misfortunes, he was despised by the lady on whom he had placed his affections. In the state of mind to which he was thus reduced, Gerbert, towards midday, wandered from the city, suffering from the pangs of hunger, for he was reduced even to the want of food, and he entered a wood to lament his misfortunes unseemingly. But, to his astonishment, the first object which presented itself to his eyes was a lady of surpassing beauty, seated on a very large and rich carpet of silk, with a vast heap of money before her. Gerbert was confused, and his first impulse was to return; but she addressed him by his name, told him to fear nothing, and offered him all the treasure he saw before him, with as much more as he could desire, and her own person, if he would give up his affection for the provost's daughter, who had rejected him with contempt, and fix his love faithfully and entirely upon her. She added, "My name is Meridiana; I am descended of a noble race, and I have long sought for a lover who should be in every respect similar to myself, and thou art the first man I have seen who has not possessed some point of character disagreeable to me. As, therefore, thou pleasest me in every thing, do not hesitate to accept the good fortune which heaven has sent thee." She then proceeded to calm all his suspicions, represented to him the manner in which he had been treated by the provost's daughter, and assured him that, if he would lay aside entirely his former passion, and devote himself to her love, he would be rich and fortunate throughout his life, and would attain to great dignity and reputation. "I seek no security of thee," she said, "for I am perfectly acquainted with the frankness of thy character; I desire to be beloved, and not to command; thou wilt find nothing in me which does not breathe love; he who places his love in me will never taste of adversity." Among other things, she told him that the daughter of the provost, when she saw that he no longer sought her, would follow him, and attempt to seduce him; but that, if he again placed his affections on her, he would fall into new misfortunes. Gerbert listened to the lady with attention, accepted her proposal, and became warmly attached to her.

Gerbert returned home another man; he said little of his riches, but called his creditors one by one, and paid them. With the continual gifts of the lady Meridiana, he gradually increased his household, and excelled all his fellow-scholars in the richness and number of his garments, and in the plentifulness of his table; so that, to use the words of the story, "his abundance in Rheims was like the glory of Solomon in Jerusalem." Now a steady attendant in the schools, he was initiated in the

profoundest wonders of science by his nightly conversation with his mistress, and profited, during the day, by the lectures of the learned teachers in the schools—*nec minus eum promovebat lectio lectoris in studio quam lectricis in lecto*. In a short time, he not only exceeded all his contemporaries in learning and in aptitude for business, but he became remarkable for his generosity and charity—he was "the bread of the hungry, clothing to the needy, and a prompt redemption from all oppression."

The glory of her ancient admirer, as Meridiana had foretold, excited the jealousy of the provost's daughter, who sought every means of seducing his affections; and in a favourable moment, when he was thrown off his guard by indulging in the pleasures of the table, she obtained admission to him by means of an old woman, and led him into excesses, of which he almost immediately repented, and obtained the pardon of his benefactress. This was the only instance of interruption to the love between Gerbert and his mysterious partner; and, as she had promised him, his progress in worldly honours was never checked. About this time a vacancy occurring in the see of Rheims, Gerbert was chosen to be archbishop; next, having occasion to visit Rome, he was made a cardinal, and archbishop of Ravenna; and finally he was elevated to the papal chair. During the whole of his papacy, Gerbert is said to have abstained from partaking in the sacrament of the altar, "either from fear or reverence." In the last year of his life, Meridiana told Gerbert that he would not die until the time that he should perform mass in Jerusalem, by which he was led to expect a long life; but it happened soon after that he was celebrating in the church where the plate on which Pilate wrote the inscription on the cross was said to be deposited, and which was generally known by the name of Jerusalem. There, lifting up his eyes, he beheld Meridiana, who appeared as though rejoicing that he was soon to be given up entirely to her society. Gerbert understood the signal, and, after inquiring the name of the place, he called together the cardinals, the clergy, and the people, related to them the whole course of his life, the remainder of which he passed in penitence, and he ended it by a happy death.

Such is the legend of Gerbert preserved by Walter Mapes. It concludes with the same story of the church of Jerusalem told by William of Malmesbury, and which appears at this time to have been universally applied to Gerbert. Afterwards it was applied to different persons; and in history we find the same tale told of one of the English kings and the Jerusalem chamber at Westminster. Walter Mapes' legend was popular in the twelfth century; he says, *Quis fantasticam famosi nescit illusionem Gerberti?* Mr. Wright suggests that it was founded on some allegorical story, composed, perhaps, by one of Gerbert's disciples. Meridiana might be taken as the personification of science, which came, a *meridie*, from the south; she is represented as drawing the youth from his worldly affections, and bringing with her (as she did certainly in the case of Gerbert) wealth and dignity. A momentary return to worldly vanities seems to be figured in his intrigue with the undeserving but alluring object of his first love.

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR

##### THE ENSUING WEEK:—

*Monday*.—Geographical, 8½ P.M.; British Architects, 8 P.M.

*Tuesday*.—Medical and Chirurgical, 8½ P.M.; Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.; Zoological, 8½ P.M.

Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.; Graphic, 8 P.M.; Pharmaceutical, 9 P.M.  
 Thursday.—Royal, 8 P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.; R. S. of Literature, 4 P.M.; Medico-Botanical, 8 P.M.  
 Friday.—Astronomical, 8 P.M.  
 Saturday.—Royal Botanic, 4 P.M.; Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.

## FINE ARTS.

**Royal Academy.**—At the customary Royal Academy dinner on the last day of the year (this year Saturday 30th, the last being Sunday), Mr. Phillips presided, in consequence, we regret to say, of the continued indisposition of Sir Martin Shee. His complaint is, we hear, of an intermittent character, and enough to fill his many friends with uneasiness; though we trust its worst symptoms are those which keep the eloquent and worthy president from the discharge of some of his numerous official functions and artist duties.

**Sculpture.**—The colossal statue in marble of Sir Astley Cooper is receiving its finish, and will be removed to its destination in St. Paul's in a few days. The site chosen is on the south side, between the monument of Sir John Moore, by Bacon, and General Gillespie, by Chantrey. The portion of the statue of Nelson, in Trafalgar Square, which is to undergo alteration, is that of the cable at the feet of the admiral, to which it is purposed to give greater solidity.—*Daily Press.*

To this we may add, that they are now at work balancing the cable, by adding to the opposite side, in the Nelson statue on the top of his pillar. The statue of the late Sir D. Wilkie, was, we hear, carried to the National Gallery for erection last week; but the floor of this unfortunate building was found insufficient to support the weight, and they have been propping it up to the needful strength. We regret also to hear no very exalted opinions of the finished statue. Our national arts do certainly operate under strange influences. We hope we may say "have operated," and, from recent signs, that better things may be expected.

**A Series of Compositions from the Liturgy.** Nos. II. and III. By John Bell, Sculptor (Longman and Co.).—No. II. illustrates the Belief, and No. III. Morning Prayer. The Crucifixion in the former is, we think, very conventional for so transcendent a subject; and "Dead and Buried" is, though artistical, also rather artificial: we miss religious awe and feeling. The latter fasciculus is more spirited and higher in the scale of composition. The wicked turning from wickedness, the beloved brethren moved to confess, &c., and the prayer to the Almighty Father for forgiveness, are all well conceived; and "When your fathers tempted me" is a striking performance.

**Payne's Universal Pictorial World, No. I.**, edited by C. Edwards, (London, Brain and Payne), begins well with a stirring print of whalers attacked by bears. There are also a clever well-grouped frontispiece, a view of Terni, and a very pleasing boat-scene of Ave Maria. The descriptive letter-press is of the right sort.

**The Pictorial Museum of Animated Nature.** (C. Knight and Co.).—Part II. continues, as was to be expected, a charming work, not only for the young, but for every lover of natural history.

**The Clans.**—Since No. I., reviewed in No. 1372, we have seen nothing of this promising design; but believes it goes on.

**Ripplingille's Artist and Amateur's Magazine** pursues its steady course. In our new-year's

notice of contemporary periodicals on our table we have to mention No. X. as continuing to throw an artist's light upon matters of art, and being, consequently, deserving of the public attention.

**Father Mathew.**—An exceedingly spirited bust of Father Mathew, sculptured by Mr. Carew, struck us at a late visit as among the novelties of the Adelaide Gallery. It is in a bad light, near the pastry-refreshment counter, but still enough is visible to proclaim a living likeness of the great water-king. It is a fine countenance, and the simple costume leaves it to the stamp of nature, unadorned. We have heard that Father Mathew is of the noble and rather rioting blood known by the title in London some years ago; and those who recollect the caricature of the "three polished gentlemen,"—splendid heads set in long top-boots,—will also remember that even in that style of art the three brothers Mathew were remarkably handsome portraits. Lord Mathew, as we can testify, though the top of the family, was no water-apostle, except perhaps for a particular effect; for once, at a suburban fresco-party, after considerable bibations of wine, we saw him seize the negro servant of our entertainer, and throw him headlong (with a kettle of hot water and some tumblers in his hands) into the garden-pond, to sec, as his lordship said, if it would wash him white. He thereby, perhaps, indicated the moral mysteries of the cold-water cure and the temperance system; but, alas, he was so tipsy that he did not know what he was doing.

But Carew's bust is, we have said, with an ungenial choice of term, a "spirited" one; it has neither milk nor water about it, but the milk of human kindness indicated by the features. The dress is a closely buttoned-up clerical single-breasted coat; and the medal hangs suspended by a broad ribbon round the shoulders, on the breast. There is great simplicity and excellent effect in the whole; it is graceful, natural, well poised, and speaking.

**Dadd,** the poor maniac artist who murdered his father near Gravesend, still remains in a *maison de santé* in France, but must, it seems, be brought over to this country to undergo the form of a trial. In such a case this is much to be lamented, as needlessly reopening the wounds of an afflicted family and friends; but the broad rules of justice cannot be swerved from without incurring risks of guilt escaping under the semblance of misfortune. As we hear, the unhappy parricide is unconscious of his crime; to which he says he was impelled by a superior and commanding power. For its consequences he has no regrets; but he talks much, and appears to be deeply concerned in the success of his pictures (the cartoons, among others) in the public galleries. Their fate interests him; his own does not!

## SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

## IRELAND: TRAITS AND ANECDOTES.

OUR last sketch seriously exemplified somewhat of that *sub-stratum* of superstition and ignorance, on which is built no small portion of the *super-structure* of error and crime which deform the country. Whilst among the Irish people you cannot help liking them; and it is when proof after proof of terrible facts is forced upon your mind, that you can believe them, singly or aggregately, capable of the guilt which so deeply stains their national name. They seem to be hardly responsible creatures. All that is bad in them has been stimulated, palliated, and encouraged; all that is naturally good, repressed, enervated, and scorned. No

wonder that with blindness for their inheritance, vice for their education, and passion for their leader, they should be an anomaly and enigma in the history of mankind. Among the more grave of our tourist-memoranda we find one in sad corroboration of these sentiments. On the coast of which we have spoken we were expressing our astonishment that the prolific and enormous resources for provision and prosperity which the ocean rolled, as it were, to their very feet, were not cultivated by the establishment of extensive fisheries. "The New Act, Sir," replied our informant, "ought to do, and would do much; but there is an obstacle—an industrious fisherman dare not fill his boat!" "Dare not fill his boat!" we exclaimed; "in heaven's name, what better could he do for himself, his family, and his country?" "Nothing worse, Sir," was the answer; "if any one individual, or perhaps two or three, go to work in the manner you suggest, they would be plundered by the idle and dissolute the moment they came on shore; and if they persisted—" "What then?" "Why, they would most likely be murdered, that's all!"

Upon such a race who would not be glad to turn their back? Killarney was a paradise, Cork a city of refuge, Mr. and Mrs. Hall's flattering descriptions realities, and Mr. Kohl's realities delightful fictions. Here is a nice sample of the last, to repose upon after the painful sights and recollections so pressed upon the traveller:—

"Now there's Tom O'Sullivan, your honour," (said one of the German tourist's guides,) "there he stands, and Tom's one of our best bagpipe players in Kerry. Well, till after he was thirty, Tom had never handled a bag of pipes in his life. It happened, however, one day, that Tom was wandering among the hills, and lay down to sleep in a place that belonged to the 'good people,' and there are many such places in our country. Now, when he was asleep the fairies appeared to him, and played him a power of the most beautiful tunes upon the bagpipes, and then laid the bagpipes down by the side of him. Well, when Tom awoke he felt about in the grass, and soon found the pipes; and when he took them up, he was able to play off-hand and quite pat every one of the tunes that the fairies had taught him. Now that's a fact, your honour." "Is it so, Tom?" said I. "Indeed it is, your honour, and very pretty people they were that taught me. And though it's now thirty years since they gave me the pipes, I have them still, and they play as beautifully now as the first day." "There now, that's a fact, your honour." Hereupon Tom went on and told me of a yet more marvellous adventure of a friend of his, one Phin McShane, who had fought in a great battle on the side of the Kerry fairies against the Limerick fairies, and his bravery had helped the former to gain a victory, whereupon they gave him a cap, that, when he wore it, made him as strong as any other seven men. "And Phin has the cap still; and when he puts it on, there's not a man in the barony will affront him. Now that's another fact, your honour; and when you come to Kerry I'll shew you my pipes, and my friend Phin shall shew you his cap." "I see, sir, you don't believe 'em," cried a woman here; "and yet it's a wonder you don't. Well, I've seen the good people with my own eyes dancing on their grounds, and my own ears have heard them play the most beautiful music. It's only a few days ago that my husband and I were coming from Galway, through the county of Roscommon, over the bog of Ballinasloe. We were both tired, and lay down to



sleep by the side of a well. My husband fell asleep, but I didn't, and soon I heard the most beautiful music; I thought there might have been a piper near at hand, and stood up to look about me; but as I saw nothing, I waked my husband, and bid him listen. "Let's go on," says he, "it's the good people that's playing;" and so he pulled me away; and by the same token I left a new handkerchief behind me that I had bought in Galway, and had pulled out to look at by the well-side." "Now that again is a fact," observed my Kerry friend, very learnedly. The English have compiled a number of 'Books of Facts' for their children, but here are facts which they have probably not yet thought of collecting. Of all nations of the earth the Irish are probably the strongest in their belief in the tricks and antics of these tiny elves. There are stories in general circulation infinitely more marvellous than those I have here related, but I preferred to tell those which the people declared had occurred to themselves, as being much more characteristic of the country than legends which have probably received poetical embellishments in passing through the hands of their several narrators. It is quite characteristic of the Irish that their fairies should be divided, like the island itself, into counties. You hear of the Limerick fairies, and the Donegal fairies, and the Tipperary fairies; and the fairies of two adjoining counties have their faction-fights, just like the inhabitants themselves. In Tipperary, however, is a place in which all the fairies in Ireland are said to hold their meetings. Another peculiarity of the Irish fairies is, that they are quite as desirous to get mortals into their service as mortals are to obtain control of them. "They have always one or other of them in their service," said my Kerry friend; "and they are always particularly anxious to get hold of little children. When a fairy has set her heart upon a child, it falls sick and dies; and then the fairies fetch it away, and breed it up, and it comes, perhaps, to be one of the mightiest among them." Troth it's the red-haired children the fairies are fond of, and it's they that run the greatest risk."

So that we find even the good people have faction-fights: what can be expected from the bad? But we are glad we have got out of the dismal: it is like dipping into one of Mr. Gorman's refreshing baths at Monkstown, and for the small sum of eighteen-pence getting rid of all the soil, dirt, and unpleasantness of the country. What would we give for such baths in London, with Cork soap to help our ablutions, and its easy and curative shaving liquid, which, thanks to importation, we have used to our entire satisfaction ever since! And gossiping of Cork and of Irish superstitions, we may instance a sample of classic correctness which we read on the panel of a handsomely finished new carriage in the city, and relate a brief story of the adjacent suburb, a little beyond "de groves of Blackpool." The armorial inscription was as follows:—

UNUS REX, UNA LEX.\*

The legend is a pretty one of Sunday Well, by the side of which two beautiful sycamore-trees grow, immediately on the outside of a

\* With regard to the prevalence of one law, we cannot be so certain, as we heard of an infanticide whilst there, of which no legal notice seemed to be taken or thought of. A gallant amateur Whip, driving the mail out of — for Cork, in turning a corner, knocked down and drove over a child. A bystander shrieked and exclaimed, "The child is killed!" "Killed!" said the driver, who had now got a straight level road before him—"killed! tchick, tchick! how unfortunate!"

strangely angular park-wall. This, as the story goes, was the property of a Squire Leahy, who on building his wall enclosed the sacred well and its shadowing companions. But misfortune fell upon him and his. Child after child sickened and died, till at length he was left despairing and almost issueless. Then, so late, it was told him how he had shut out and deprived the poor of the blessed waters which were their sabbath resort and consolation; and then he hastened to relieve himself of their maledictions, by restoring the Sunday Well to the common road, and rebuilding his park-wall within the stems of the guardian sycamores. After this, like Job after his troubles, he prospered, and became thrice as richly endowed as before.

#### THE DRAMA.

*Haymarket.*—Madame Vestris and Mr. C. Mathews reappeared at this theatre on Saturday night, after a temporary absence, and were received with the hearty welcome of popular favourites. They were both in good force and spirits.

*Princess's Theatre.*—An English version of Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* has been brought out at this theatre with a success equal to that of previous adaptations of Italian operas. The principal singers are, Madame Eugenia Garcia, who, although perhaps a little too energetic now and then, sings generally well; Mr. Allen, —the music is well suited to his voice, and he gives it pleasingly, and is equal throughout the opera; Mr. Burdini, also effective; Mrs. H. P. Grattan, and Messrs. Weiss, Walton, Barker, &c. &c. The opera, and the Keleys, who are still playing here, attract full houses.

*Musical Evenings.*—Mr. W. H. Phillips has given his second entertainment, and Mr. Wilson his first of the present season. There was no novelty, only their usual attractions, to notice. M. Jullien is flourishing at Covent Garden; and here are both novelty and excellence.

#### ORIGINAL POETRY.

##### SONG.

THROUGH archipelagoes of hearts  
The bark of beauty sails,  
Laden with love for honour's marts,  
Or isles where truth prevails;  
Her swelling royals, snowy white,  
In the bright sunshine gleam,  
And from her topmast's lofty height  
Untangled pennants stream.  
Pilot, beware! he not too brave  
In that fair island-sea,  
Steer clear of every breaking wave,  
Lest there a rock should be,  
Look to your chart where dangers threat  
On each enchanting shore,  
Whence passion's gust hath overset  
As noble bark before.

B. B.

##### WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

ONCE more within thy holy walls I stand,  
O glorious fane! Thy busy crowds without  
Seem as if left in some far distant land;  
Thy world is all around me now—about  
My inmost heart, and beauty poureth down  
Its spells upon the soul. For gather'd here,  
Rich gifts of mind in one great whole appear:  
And those gifts are from God—the power to crown  
An outward temple with the rays divine  
Which in the temple of the spirit lie,  
Watch'd o'er by One who marketh every sign  
Of mortal worth; and therefore we decry  
Deep purpose in thy loveliness, O fane  
Of olden days, not spared for us in vain!

EMMA B.

#### VARIETIES.

*Mr. Rogers, the Poet,* has been sitting to Behnes, the sculptor, for his bust; so that we are sure of the Pleasures of Memory at the next Exhibition.

*Mr. Schethy*, the well-known artist, has been appointed marine-painter to Her Majesty.

*Veterinary Surgeons.*—The gentlemen belonging to this most useful and important profession, now scattered in various communities or associations in England, Scotland, and Ireland, have, we are glad to see, announced their intention to obtain a Royal Charter, and become an incorporated body, under the title of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. All the beasts of the field, and their owners, will have occasion to rejoice in such an elevation of the science and of the school, on the aid of which so much animal health, and comfort, and human property and profit, depend.

*William Allen, F.R.S.*, in the 74th year of his age, died at Lindfield, Sussex, on Saturday last. He was distinguished by his pursuits both in literature and science.

*The Death of J. R. Morrison*—one of the best, if not the best, Chinese scholar in the world—is announced in the letters just received from China. The Chinese Dictionary is an everlasting monument to his memory.

*Tea Statistics.*—A circular issued by Messrs. Lloyd and Co., shewing the consumption of tea at four different periods, is as follows:—

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| In 1836, when prices were lowest, the    | lbs.       |
| consumption was . . . . .                | 40,500,000 |
| In 1840, when prices were highest, being |            |
| 25 per cent above 1836, the consump-     |            |
| tion was . . . . .                       | 31,000,000 |
| In 1842, when prices were 12½ per cent   |            |
| lower than in 1840, and 12½ per cent     |            |
| higher than in 1843, the consumption     |            |
| was . . . . .                            | 36,000,000 |
| In 1843, when prices were nearly as low  |            |
| as in 1836, the consumption was . . .    | 38,000,000 |

The object of this statement is to base an argument that the duty on tea ought to be reduced to 1s. per pound. The statistics of sloe-leaves and carpet-tea have not been ascertained.

*Mormonism.*—Jonathan Pagmore, blacksmith, and teacher and preacher among the "latter-day saints" (and present-day fools, fanatics, and rogues), was this week acquitted at the Chester assizes, in consequence of the keeping back of material witnesses, on the charge of killing and slaying Sarah Cartwright, whom he plunged, at dusk, into a deep and rapid stream as a performance of the rite of baptism. These are agreeable proofs of "the march of intellect" in our enlightened times; yet do not go far beyond the crowner's-quest law, enounced by the "will he, nill he" gravedigger in *Hamlet* some centuries back. The accident reminds us of one which happened a few years ago with another of these total immersion baptismal ceremonies. The operator was dipping child after child in a gushing river, when one slipped from his grip, and was carried down and drowned. Without pausing a minute, the earnest and pious priest exclaimed, "One is gone to the Lord: hand me another!"

*Thunder-storm.*—The state of the weather recently has been most extraordinary in all parts of the country. In Lancashire and Cheshire it has been very variable—heat, cold, snow, hail, rain, almost on alternate days. The typhus fever, and other diseases, are very prevalent. On Monday evening last these counties were visited by a heavy thunder-storm, accompanied by hail and rain. The flashes of lightning were terrific, and the thunder shook the houses almost to their foundation. The effect of the lightning was such as to cause a stage-like appearance of the burning of blue fire.—

*Newspapers.*

*Earthquake.*—The shock felt yesterday fortnight at Guernsey extended also to Jersey, Alderney, and along the French coast.

**New Mode of Publishing!**—Authors need no longer complain of their works being still-born, and never getting into circulation. They have only to follow the example of one of the Missionary Tract Societies,—cork them in bottles, and commit them to the sea, to be distributed alongshore! Our old-fashioned publishers were not bottle-conjurors enough to devise such a plan as this.

## LITERARY NOVELTIES.

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

The Child's Picture and Verse-Book, commonly called Otto Speckter's Fable-Book; with the Original German and with French, translated into English by Mary Howitt, square 8vo, 10s. 6d. bds. — A Series of Tables of Annuities and Assurances, by J. Jones, 8vo, 10s. 6d. — Father and Daughter, and Temper, by Mrs. Opie, 1 vol. fcp. 6s. — Walker's Practical Chart of Diseases of the Skin, folded, in 8vo, cloth case, 3s. — Progressive Geography adapted to Junior Classes, by R. Hiley, 18mo, 1s. 6d. bds. — Lives of the Twelve Apostles, by Peter Parley, sq. 3s. — Happy Hours, or the Home Story-Book, by Mary Cherwell, sq. 3s. 6d. — An Introduction to Practical Organic Chemistry, fcp. 3s. 6d. — Burke's Dictionary of the Landed Gentry, Part II., 8vo, 10s. 6d. — Foreign Library: History of the 18th Century, by F. C. Schlosser, Part III., 8vo, 4s. 6d. — First Companion to the Lord's Table, with Introduction, by the Rev. T. Dale, 32mo, 2s. 6d. — Spring Blossoms, or Familiar Dialogues, by C. Feist, 4th edit. 18mo, 2s. 6d. — The Position of the Church of England in the Catholic World, by the Rev. J. R. Page, 8vo, 8s. — Treasure-Trove; a Romantic Irish Tale, by S. Lover, 8vo, 14s. — Ambrose Ward, or the Dissenter reclaimed; a Tale, fcp. 4s. 6d.

## DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

| 1844.        | h. | m.   | s.   | 1844.         | h. | m.   | s.   |
|--------------|----|------|------|---------------|----|------|------|
| Jan. 6 . . . | 12 | 5    | 53.2 | Jan. 10 . . . | 12 | 7    | 35.6 |
| 7 . . .      | 6  | 19.5 |      | 11 . . .      | 7  | 59.9 |      |
| 8 . . .      | 6  | 45.4 |      | 12 . . .      | 8  | 23.6 |      |
| 9 . . .      | 7  | 10.8 |      |               |    |      |      |

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

☞ A Constant Reader, and every other reader of the *Literary Gazette*, is informed that as soon as it was discovered that the extra half-sheet in last No. had been accidentally mis-paged, every effort was made to correct the error. This portion has been reprinted and properly paged, and may be had of every newsman who supplies the paper, in order that it may readily be substituted for a cancel of the former. To foreign and distant friends it will be duly forwarded, we trust, by all who transmit their *Gazettes*; for we should much regret the perpetuation of even so trifling a cause of confusion.

We hope to give a biography of the late Mr. London in next *Literary Gazette*.

The following note to the Rev. R. Cattemole explains itself:

50 Queen Anne Street, 1st Jan. 1844.

Dear Sir,—In the report which the *Literary Gazette* has given of my paper read at the Royal Society of Literature, there is an error at the end of the translation of "trophy" for "to his brother." Whether this has arisen from my bad writing, I know not; but you will perceive that the word *sempiternus* ought to have been so translated from the tenour of the paper itself, which shows that Praxinemes was the brother of Menecrates. The monument of arms was not a trophy, but a permanent portion of the sepulchral monument.—Yours, &c.

WILLIAM LEAKE.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

## SALES BY AUCTION.

Burton Crescent.—Parisian Furniture, Cabinet Piano-forte, and Effects.

**MESSRS. SHUTTLEWORTH and SONS** are instructed to SELL BY AUCTION, on the Premises, No. 17 BURTON CRESCENT,

On THURSDAY, January 11, at Eleven, the principal portion manufactured by an eminent Firm in Paris, and recently imported by the present proprietor, who is leaving the country, comprising Bedsteads and Furniture, Dressing Stools and Glasses, Double and Single Chests of Drawers; Loo, Card, Drawing, and Occasional Tables; Cabinets, Sideboards, Couches, Chairs, Chimney-Glasses; a 64 Detrev Piano-forte, in a handsome Mahogany Case; Glass, Curtains, Carpets, and miscellaneous Items.

May be viewed the day previous to the Sale, when Catalogues may be obtained on the premises, and of Messrs. Shuttleworth and Sons, 25 Foultry.

The Collection of Antique Gems, Bronzes and Pottery, Prints and Drawings, of Thomas Thomas, Esq., deceased.

**BY MESSRS. CHRISTIE and MANSON,** at their GREAT ROOM, KING STREET, ST. JAMES SQUARE,

On MONDAY, February 12, and following Days, at One o'clock precisely,

(By order of the Executors.)

The CABINET of ANTIQUE GEMS in CAMMO and INTAGLIO, selected from the Sales of the Poniatowski and other Collections; ANTIQUE BRONZES and POTTERY; and the Collection of ENGRAVINGS and DRAWINGS in WATER COLOURS.

The Property of THOMAS THOMAS, Esq., deceased. May be viewed Friday and Saturday preceding.

The entire Cellar of Wines and curious Whiskey of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.

**MESSRS. CHRISTIE and MANSON** respectfully inform the Nobility and Public, that they will SELL BY AUCTION, at their GREAT ROOM, KING STREET, ST. JAMES SQUARE,

On TUESDAY, February 20,

(By order of the Executors.)

The entire CELLAR of capital WINES and very curious WHISKY, and small Parcels of Rarities, of His late Royal Highness the DUKE of SUSSEX, K.G., And lying in the Cellars of Kensington Palace.

Comprising about 50 Dozens of Port, some very Old; 35 Dozens of Sherry, and some of Douz's Amontillado; 150 Dozens of very fine Madeira, Duff Gordon's and Gough's, Tinas and Cott Madiera; 15 Dozens of Chateau Margaux, of 1831 and 1834, St. Julien; Hock, including some very fine Stein Wine, Feist's Hockheimer, Sparkling Moselle, Lecherma Chianti, Red and very Old White Hermitage, Burgundy, 1000 Dozens of very fine Constantia, Mountain, Cyprus, Shiraz, Orvieto, Sauterne, Sillery, and Sparkling Champagne; and some very fine Old Whisky, 25 years old; and Irish Whiskey, presented by different friends to his Royal Highness.

Samplings may be had ten days before the sale, on paying for the same, at Messrs. Christie and Manson's Office.

The remaining Portion of Jewels and Trinkets of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex.

**MESSRS. CHRISTIE and MANSON** respectfully inform the Nobility and Public, that they will SELL BY AUCTION,

At their GREAT ROOM, KING STREET, ST. JAMES SQUARE, (By order of the Executors.)

The remaining Portion of the JEWELS, TRINKETS, and OBJECTS of TASTE,

Of his Royal Highness the DUKE of SUSSEX, K.G. Further particulars will be given.

The Cabinet of Pictures and Choice Collection of Prints of W. Segnier, Esq., deceased.

**MESSRS. CHRISTIE and MANSON** respectfully inform the Nobility and Public, that they will SELL BY AUCTION,

On THURSDAY, 29th February, and two following Days, (By order of the Executors.)

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The First Performance will take place on Monday, Jan. 22d, when Mons. Achard, Mlle. St. Henri, and Mlle. M. Beauchamp will have the honour of making their first appearances in this country.

Applications for Season Boxes and Stalls to be addressed to Mr. Mitchell, Royal Library, 35 Old Bond Street; Mr. Sams, 1 St. James's Street; Messrs. Andrews and Ebers, Bond Street.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW *versus* "CHANGE FOR AMERICAN NOTES."

The Publishers of the above volume, which the *Quarterly* has honoured with its notice, consider it proper to state that the Reviewer's insinuation respecting the origin and authorship of the work are entirely unwarranted and unfounded in fact.

Without questioning the justice or fairness of the review, which speaks for itself, the Publishers would merely refer to so much as personally affects themselves; and in reply to the Reviewer's gratuitous "speculations" and "assertions," they beg to remark—That the volume was neither originated, suggested, or written by either of the Publishers.

That, so far as they know, it was wholly written by one person, who, as an American Lady in London, applied to them to publish it; and

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Whatever may be the sins of the work, the Publishers must, of course, be in some sort responsible; inasmuch as the Authors choose to remain unknown, and they do not feel called upon to give her name to an anonymous Reviewer.

The volume was published, not as a fair and just account of England, but simply as an illustration of the fairness and accuracy of some of the writers on the United States, by remarks on England written in a similar spirit. As such the Publishers believe it to be no more than a *reprint*, however much it may deserve censure in any other character.

Any one who may take sufficient interest in the subject may see the *ms.* and sample proofs of the illiberal nature of the article in the *Quarterly Review*, by calling on the Publishers. The facts are also known to the very respectable Printers of the work, who will corroborate this statement.

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